METRO / A23
Docs, nurses in QC clinic face raps for death of lipo patient

ACROSS / A20
NGO says Clark airport used for sex trafficking

LIFESTYLE / C1
Secret is out; Monday's 'gimik' Rockeoke night at Bonifacio High street

SPORTS / A27
Tiger needs 91 holes to foil Mediate, win US Open

Honda drives step closer to oil-free world

TAKANEZAWA, JAPAN—IT LOOKS LIKE an ordinary family sedan, costs more to build than a Ferrari and may have just moved the world one step closer to a future free of petroleum.

On Monday, Honda Motor rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered fuel-cell vehicle intended for mass production, the FCX Clarity.

Fuel cell vehicles have been a sort of Holy Grail of the auto industry, offering the promise of driving without emitting air-polluting exhaust. Fuel cells work by

HONDA, A21

Lifestyle changes trigger genetic change

WASHINGTON—SO, YOU think it's all in your genes and you can't do anything about it. Well, US researchers have found there's a lot you may be able to do.

According to the re-

LIFESTYLE A1

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 ★★ Vol. 23 / No. 194 website: www.inquirer.net

Ces, 2 others released

Loren Legarda had been negotiating for past 5 days

By Ed General and Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Alcain Pugo
in Manila

THEY'RE FREE.

At press time, ABS-CBN reporter Ces Drilon and her two companions had started their three-hour trek down the heavily forested area where they had been held by heavily armed kidnappers the past 10 days, the Inquirer learned late last night.

The hostages were released to the custody of Indanan, Sulu, Mayor Alvarez Isnaji and local community leaders. Isnaji had been negotiating with the kidnappers for the release of Drilon, her cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion and Prof. Octavio Dinampo.

The Inquirer also learned that Sen. Loren Legarda had been involved in the negotiations for the last five days at the request of Drilon's family and ABS-CBN, where Legarda was a broadcaster for many years before running for the Senate.

The Inquirer learned that Legarda insisted the captives' release without conditions as payment of ransom but on "purely humanitarian grounds."

No military or police elements were

CES, 2 OTHERS A2

SPECIAL DELIVERY At about 4 p.m. on Tuesday, a special flight of Sesar arrives at the Jolo National Airport from Zamboanga City, heightening the tension on the ground the past nine days over the kidnapping of Ces Drilon and her two companions by largely still unknown men. On board the plane is a lawyer allegedly with two duffel bags containing money. He was met reportedly by Khan, one of Indanan Mayor Alvarez Isnaji's sons, in a pickup truck at plane side, which belongs to Sulu Vice Gov. Lady Ann Sahidulla. NIPH JOSE

Spot market prices hit record low in peak price month

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HEAD OF THE FIRM RUNNING the country's electricity spot market is stumped by wholesale prices hitting a record low last month when the rates were expected to peak because of strong demand due to the high humidity.

"This was certainly unexpected for what was supposed to be a peak price month," Lasse Holopainen, president of Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), said yesterday.

Wholesale prices at the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) in May hit P1.80 per kilowatt-hour although it is not certain if the rates would stay at that level.

"This is significantly below the P5 per kWh that (WESM was) averaging before the May trading," Holopainen said.

He said PEMC was still figuring out how this happened.

Holopainen said the reduced prices should be reflected in the June billing of customers of distribution utilities and suppliers who are WESM participants.

Meralco has announced a 43-centavo per kWh rate reduction for this

SPOT MARKET A6

US freezes Solaiman group assets

WASHINGTON—THE US DEpartment of State on Monday designated the Philippine-based Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM), its leader and seven members as "global terrorists," and moved to impose financial sanctions against them.

The action against the group, its leader Ahmad Santos and the other alleged members means that any bank accounts or other financial assets found in the United States that belong to them must be frozen.

Americans are also prohibited from doing business with them.

Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon welcomed the US move.

US FREEZES, A20

Minimum wage earners get tax relief

By Michael Lim Ubac

A TAX RELIEF PACKAGE THAT President Macapagal Arroyo signed into law yesterday is expected to result in daily savings of P34 for each the country's more than a million minimum wage earners, according to the principal authors of the measure.

Republic Act No. 9504 exempts minimum wage earners in the private sector and their counterparts in the public sector (casual employees) from paying income tax.

Minimum wage earners (or those paid the statutory minimum wage fixed by the regional wage boards) receive P382 daily in Metro Manila, and from P180 to P320 in other regions.

The law, which no longer requires minimum wage earners to file income tax returns, also increased the personal exemptions of other earners.

MINIMUM, A10

BIPARTISAN BACKERS President Arroyo happily obliges with a photo op with sponsors of the tax relief bill for minimum wage earners, which she signs into law on Tuesday at the Palace. From left are Rep. Arthur Defensor, House Speaker Prospero Nograles, Sen. Bong Revilla and Sen. Chiz Escudero.

'Like putting money in basket with a hole'

By Kristine L. Alave
and Michael Lim Ubac

GIVING SUBSIDIES TO POOR families may unnecessarily help them cope with the fiscal and energy crises but it is like throwing money away.

A Roman Catholic Church leader, two senators and a leading member of the academe voiced this concern yesterday in reaction to the dole policy announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The money comes from the taxes paid to the government. When it has been distributed, it disappears immediately," Jaro, Iloilo Archbishop Angel

LIKE PUTTING, A10

Lack of due diligence denies justice in extrajudicial cases

By TJ Burgonio

POOR FORENSIC INVESTIGATION BY Philippine authorities is a major stumbling block in getting justice for victims of extrajudicial killings, the London-based rights group Amnesty International (AI) said yesterday.

AI Philippine director Aurora Parong said that even if cases had been filed against alleged perpetrators of summary executions, justice remained elusive.

"This is because forensic investigations of human rights violations are not done with due diligence, either because of unwillingness to do so or because of incompetence to do good investigations," Parong said in a statement.

She also decried the slow prosecution of cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and other human rights violations.

"The officials of the Department of Justice and the judiciary should give focus on resolving justice to victims of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances," Parong said.

AI noted that while incidents dipped last year, extrajudicial killings and disappearances continued.

Parong said that while families of victims of killings and abductions could resort to filing for writs of amparo and habeas data to get justice, these were hardly known to most people.

"But even these are not known by most of the ordinary people. The law

LACK, A10

PAL's luggage limit to US is 46 kg, not 23 kg

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) has clarified that passengers flying to and from North America may carry a total of 46 kilos (100 lb) of check-in luggage under its new free baggage limit to be implemented starting next month.

PAL'S LUGGAGE, A17

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

SUERTRES

2 5 7 9 1 | 1 5 1
4 31 | 3 6 4 5 3 4
6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
8 15 18 21 37 41
P37,260,072.00
POWER LOTTO 5/55 + 1/18
1 18 22 39 45 + 2
P50,000,000.00

Abalos unfazed by govs' threat

New Ulap head says he won fair and square, laments bullying

By Kristine L. Alave

DON'T TEST US. DON'T BULLY US.

This was the exchange yesterday between the chair of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and the newly elected president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) as the provincial governors refused to accept a "mere mayor" as their president.

In a show of might, the LPP said they would press for a new Ulap election or they rejected the presidency of Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos and the takeover of the current Ulap board.

If they don't get what they want, the LPP said it would form a new organization.

The governors insist that the presidency of Ulap, by tradition, should be held by one of their own, as they are "the highest local official."

Lawmaking when he described as the governors' condescending attitude toward other local officials, Abalos called for solidarity from the Ulap members.

Respect

He reiterated that the Ulap constitution regards every member, whether governor, mayor, vice mayor, councilor and even barangay and youth leaders, equally and does not stipulate that the Ulap president should be a governor.

"We have respect for them, but if that's their attitude, then they have no respect for us. It does not reflect well on the other governors," said Abalos.

"Together, we can do so much, but by threatening, they are not being good to everyone," he said.

The LPP also called the Governors' League, one last Monday to discuss their next move after Abalos' election last week.

However, aside from some Ulap's founding a decade ago, a governor has always occupied the top post.

Less than half of the 81 governors attended the Manila meeting, but those who were absent sent their support, said Camarines Sur Gov. Luigi Villafuerte, the LPP chair, in a phone interview.

Their resolution was to call for another Ulap election, said Villafuerte, who presided over the meeting.

If the current Ulap board refuses, then the governors, along with their allies, would quit Ulap, he said.

"We are not accepting the Ulap election. The governors' votes should be heard. We should have been there," said Villafuerte.

"All of us, the 81 governors are united in this. They should not test us," he said.

Two days before the Ulap election, the governors asked for a postponement of the polls, but the plea was rejected as league members were already in Manila for the meeting.

Leo Dominguez of Misamis Occidental cited the fact that Abalos himself had asked for and was granted a postponement of the convention.

But Abalos pointed out that the request for a postponement was based only on 48 hours before the election—not a Saturday of recession—and was officially received only on Monday, the day of the election.

He said his own request for a postponement was made at least two weeks before the election.

"And I had a close mandate. I won fair and square," said Abalos, noting that nine of Ulap's 11 member-leagues voted for him and the Ulap board.

He also cited the fact that there was a proper legal notice and quorum when the election was held.

ABALOS

VILLAFUERTE

"The carping and whining of losing candidates, Leo Dominguez, betrays his inability to accept defeat in an open, fair election," Abalos said.

Villafuerte said the governors are very well persuade their allies in the other leagues to quit Ulap should Abalos refuse to agree to another election.

After all, the Ulap is not worse than the leagues they form the governors, Villafuerte said.

"If the governors move, everyone will follow. If we form our own group, it will be stronger, more representative," he said.

Since Ulap was founded in 1998, Villafuerte said the LPP has always been the one to manage and maintain its offices. The governors also paid a large chunk of the dues.

Ulap has 11 member-leagues: the League of Provinces, League of Cities, League of Municipalities, Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Liga ng mga Barangay, National Federation of Sangguniang Kabataan, Lady Legislators' League and the Pambansang Federasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan.

The presidents of the 11 leagues vote for the composition of the Ulap board. Except for the representatives of the governors and the vice-governors, nine groups voted for Abalos in last week's election.

Ulap board members, meanwhile, said they all supported Abalos. The governors were just "sour-grapping" for not getting the support of the other members, they said.

Give others a chance

Binalonan, Pangasinan Mayor Marcos Gonzo, the outgoing Ulap president after Gov. Eraño Austenzo resigned because of health reasons, said the governors' demand that they lead Ulap is unfair to other members. Gonzo is the president of the League of Municipalities.

"It doesn't mean that as governors, they are above us. There are also some mayors who are good," he said in a phone interview. "They should give others a chance."

"If they want to bolt, then we won't be able to do anything about it," Gonzo added.

Ulap secretary-general Paulo Dicaso said the board has yet to discuss the governors' threats to quit the organization. He said it was the governors' way of "pressuring them."

"Nothing in the Ulap constitution says that the LPP president is automatically Ulap president. Anybody can be president, even the youth leaders," she added.

WHAT'S INSIDE

JUDGE WALKS in child abuse case /A5

PUBLIC schools lack toilets, teachers complain /A6

EX-MAYOR, 3 cops cleared of arson, slays /A7

'HOT MONEY' flowing out /A7

MIRIAM SEES OK of Jpepa in August /A9

United Auctioneers, Inc.
JUNE 24, 25 & 26, 2008
(TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY)
ALL ITEMS WILL BE AWARDED ON HIGHEST BIDDER
1,500 LOTS ALL MUST GO
INSPECTION & REGISTRATION START ON SATURDAY!
INSPECTION DATES: JUNE 21, 22 & 23, 2008
"NO MINIMUM PRICE!"
SALE STARTS AT 9:00 AM SHARP
TCM L34
CATERPILLAR 950G
MITSUBISHI MK7
KOMATSU D31E
ISUZU 10M WATER TRUCK
ISUZU 10M PEDESTAL CARRIER
ISUZU FORWARD 10 ARGOSUN 5M3
ISUZU ELF MANLIFT TRUCK
MITSUBISHI MANLIFT JEEP
JOHNNY ELEVATED WORK PLATFORM
BLDG. 1455 ARNOMAT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-1229 / 252-1230 / 252-1231 / 252-1232 / 252-1233
(02) 523-2579 / 523-1405 / 287-7268 / 287-7269
FAX: (047) 252-5500 EMAIL: sales@auctioneers.net WEB: www.auctioneers.net

No admission of error, no apologies, Erap told

By Kristine L. Alave

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE of the Philippines said it would not apologize to convicted plunderer President Joseph Estrada who demanded that the CBCP apologize to the public following reports that the CBCP had supposedly said that it erred in supporting the second people power uprising of 2001 that led to Estrada's ouster.

Jose Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the CBCP president, said there was nothing to apologize for.

Lagdameo said that Edsa 2 was supported by the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and not by the entire CBCP which is a collegial body.

"There (will be) no public apology. We, the bishops, haven't talked about it," he said in an interview with the Church-owned Radio Veritas yesterday.

Reports last weekend said that the CBCP in a paper written by the Manila archdiocese vice chancellor, Fr. Sid Mendoza, which was pursued by the archdiocese's website, made an error in supporting the Edsa uprising in 2001.

The paper said the CBCP would not shun mass action as the result learned to sometimes and did not change the country for the better.

Edsa 2, which was triggered by Estrada's impeachment at the House of Representatives for corruption, led to Estrada's money, six-year "text house" arrest and trial for plunder. He was convicted by the Sandiganbayan anticipated court last year and sentenced to 40 years in prison, the Estrada did not serve a single day of his prison sentence because Malacañang pardoned him almost immediately.

Estrada commended the CBCP for "admitting its error" and said it should issue an apology to the public.

"At least now people are beginning to admit the truth that Edsa Uno was a conspiracy, a power grab," he said.

Another prelate, Bacoor, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, thinked that the CBCP ever is said such is accounted. He said there is nothing for the CBCP to be sorry for.

"It was not the CBCP who said it. Sid (Mendoza) is not a representative of the CBCP to speak for the group. The CBCP has nothing to do with Edsa 2. It was Manila which decided to support Edsa 2," he said.

"You do not judge a decision seven years after it took place," he said.

Mendoza, in a radio interview, said his paper was just his interpretation of CBCP statements in the past four years.

MNLF faction wants polls reset

COTABATO CITY—ANOTHER FACTION of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) also wants the election in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) scheduled for August to be postponed.

Muslimin Sema, who chairs another MNLF faction, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to postpone the upcoming polls in the government has yet to fully implement the 1996 peace deal it signed with the MNLF.

Nur Misuari, the chair of another MNLF faction, also support the postponement.

The ARMM polls pit incumbent Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan with several More politicians, including Ombrosa, Sulu Mayor Abdusakur Tan. The main target today is the kidnapping of the ABS-CBN TV crew in Sulu.

Sema, also mayor of this city said Presidential Arroyo should instead appoint a caretaker from the MNLF's Executive Oversight Committee once the term of office of all incumbent ARMM officials ends.

She is apparent there was no stopping the polls already.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said it has taken another step to ensure that the August elections would be free of controversy by replacing ARMM Comelec Director Sey Sumalipao.

A hot Samsung M620 FREE with a new HSBC credit card
Call (02) 85-800 or (02) 976-8000
Click www.hsbc.com.ph
Visit your nearest branch
HSBC
The world's local bank

IT'S BACK!
Turn back the clock. Look 5 years younger. Recapture that soft, smooth, flawless skin you once had. You will with Diamond Peel:
• Reduce fine lines and wrinkles
• Fade acne scars, age spots and other blemishes
• Even out skin color and give it a healthy, youthful glow
• Refine pores and prevent breakouts
• Give your skin renewed elasticity and suppleness
• Look five years younger
Everyone who has tried it can't get enough of it. Find out why. Call NOW.
BUY 1 TAKE 1
ON DIAMOND PEEL
Until June 21, 2008 only.
facial care
CENTRE
892-SKIN (7546)

GMA oversees Lakas-Kampi merger today

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS expected to oversee the signing of a merger agreement between her two political parties the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino in Davao City today.

Speaker Prospero Nograles, Lakas president, and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Ms Arroyo's ex-chair in Kampi, have been tapped to lead the national officials of both political groups in signing the "declaration of merger."

"This means that L. Ronnie Puno and (Mr) Nograles will unit with glue and epoxy that administration allies will not fight one another and make sure (the administration's) national candidates will win in elections," Nograles said in a text message.

"The Unconscionous Region in Mindanao (Midsayas election) is our first acid test and it's you," he added.

The signing of the merger agreement is only the initial step in the process of the two parties becoming one group.

It will be followed by a series of regional consultations meant to resolve conflicts at the local levels between members of the two parties.

The event, however, is expected to be marred by the absence of the Kampi president Executive Sec Eduardo Ermita.

"Well, as long as the President gives the marching orders, there's no follow," Nograles said when told of Villafuerte's expected absence. Norman Bordadora

COME FOR THE GOLF.
STAY FOR THE NONSTOP SHOPPING.

Hurry and book a Guam Holiday.

You'll love Guam for the world-class golf courses and duty-free shopping. And with our daily flights from Manila to Guam your adventure can start any day you want. Plus you'll earn 500 OnePass® miles when you travel to Guam. For reservations, call Continental at (063-2) 8-8830 (Makati City) or (032) 414-7351 (Cebu City), or visit us online at continental.com

GUAM
from airfare as low as
$375

Continental Airlines

Work Hard.
Fly Right.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 K 2:1, 6-14
Gospel: Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be careful not to make a display of your righteousness before people. If you do so, you do not gain anything from your Father in heaven. When you give something to the poor, do not have it announced before you, as do those who want to be seen in the synagogues and in the streets in order to be praised by the people. I assure you, they have been already paid in full.

"If you give something to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift remains totally secret. Your Father who sees what is kept secret, will reward you.

"When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on corner streets so to be seen by everyone. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

"When you fast, do not put on a miserable face as do the hypocrites. They put on a gloomy face, so people can see they are fasting. I tell you this: they have been paid in full already. When you fast, wash your face and make yourself look cheerful, because you are not fasting for appearances in the people, but for your Father who sees beyond appearances. And your Father, who sees what is kept secret, will reward you.

Commentary:

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the classic pillars of the season of Lent, but they must not be confused as their sacred source. Jesus teaches us that we are to discipline our lives that we will find prayer to be as natural as breathing, sacrifice (fasting) to be mundane and regular, and care of the poor (almsgiving) to be an authentic expression of our gratitude for the Lord's mercy to us.

Jesus describes in this Gospel passage not legalistic obligations, but a way of life in which deeds speak louder than words. God does not forget those who keep Him in mind.

the biggest and most comprehensive food show of the year!

mafbex

June 18-21, 2008
10am -8pm
June 22, 2008
10 am - 6pm
WORLD TRADE CENTER METRO MANILA

Organized by
WORLDBEX SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITES

June 18, 2008 (Wednesday)
10:00 - 11:00 AM Opening Ceremony
11:00 - 3:00 PM Cake Decorating Competition (Inter-school)
2:00 - 4:00 PM Best Cheesecake Competition (SHRIM)
3:00 - 4:00 PM Mocktail Punch Competition (SHRIM)
3:00 - 6:00 PM Table set-up Competition (Inter-school)
6:00 - 7:00 PM Chocolate Praline and Packaging Competition (SHRIM)

June 19, 2008 (Thursday)
10:00 - 1:00 PM Pasta Live Cookery (SHRIM)
3:00 - 4:00 PM Best Coffee Concoction (SHRIM)
5:00 - 8:00 PM Ice Carving Competition (Professional)

June 20, 2008 (Friday)
10:00 - 12:00 NN Fruit and Vegetable Carving Competition (Inter-school)
11:00 - 1:00 PM Culinary Challenge (Inter-school)
2:00 - 4:00 PM Sugar Showpiece (Professional)
3:00 - 6:00 PM Artistic Bread Sculpture (SHRIM)
4:00 - 7:00 PM Cake Decorating Competition (SHRIM)
4:00 - 8:00 PM Bandilasan Plait Pastar

June 21, 2008 (Saturday)
10:00 - 1:00 PM Amazing Race (SHRIM)
10:00 - 1:00 PM Chef's Attack- A Simultaneous Cooking Demo (SHRIM)
2:00 - 7:00 PM Plait Cup '08 (Finals)

June 22, 2008 (Sunday)
1:00-3:00 PM MAFBEX Singing Idol (Grand Finals)
3:00-5:00 PM Closing and Awarding Ceremonies

FREE SEMINARS

June 18, 2008 Wednesday
How to Start your Own / New Business 1:00 - 2:00 PM
All About Franchising 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Successful Stories in Food Industry 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Wine Appreciation 5:00 - 7:00 PM

June 19, 2008 Thursday
How to Learn Fruit and Vegetable Carving 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Baking 101 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Different means of Plating 6:30 - 7:00 PM

June 20, 2008 Friday
Chocolate Praline and Chocolate Sculptures 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Food Styling and Photography 3:00 - 6:00 PM
Ice Cream Making 6:00 - 7:00 PM

June 21, 2008 Saturday
Creating Menus and Creative Set-ups for Local Occasions such as Debuts, Wedding and Conventions 10:00 - 12:00 NN
Dyetson Standard: Food Preservation, Food Safety and Recent Advantage and Technological Breakthroughs in Food Safety and Preservation 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Production, Control and Scheduling in the Food Industry 3:00 - 5:00 PM
How to Start a Catering Business 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Tel: (632) 531 6350 / 531 6374 Fax: (632) 533 2026
Email: info@worldbex.com Website: www.worldbex.com

CONVICTION OVERTURNED

Judge walks in child abuse case

By Lolo B. Sakaweria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS ACQUITTED a Caloocan City Regional Trial Court (RTC) judge of child abuse charges lodged by her two housemaids, citing the failure of the prosecution to prove her guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

The appellate court overturned the verdict of the Quezon City RTC which had found Judge Adoracion Angeles guilty of child abuse and sentenced her to four to six years in prison.

In its decision handed down on June 5, the appellate court said the younger maid's claim that Angeles would wake her at 4 a.m. by kicking her in the head was not supported in the decision who examined her, thus, there was no evidence of a head injury caused by the alleged kicking.

It said the use of a foot to nudge a person awake was not necessarily the same as kicking her and the action of the judge, if it happened, might have been unintentional.

The complainant, who was 12 years old at the time the charges were filed in 1995, also alleged that Angeles thrust a key into her back and hit her with a broom on the shoulders, among other acts of abuse.

The appellate court said that accusations were unsubstantiated, but even if the incidents happened, they could not necessarily be considered maltreatment under the anti-child abuse law.

"Assuming arguendo that appellant Angeles thrust a key into the back of [the younger helper] and hit her with a broom, we believe these have abuse would not constitute maltreatment under Republic Act No. 7610 [Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act], in the absence of evidence that this was done with malice, ill-will or intent to harm or injure the complainant," the court said.

It said the use of a key could have been done to wake up the girl, and the manner by which she was hit with the broom showed there was no intent to hurt her considering the soft end of the broom.

Also, there was no evidence to show Angeles was in a foul mood when the acts were committed, hence, they could not be mental and physical abuse or cruelty, said the ruling penned by Justice Agustin Dizon.

As for the older complainant, who was 13 at the time, the court said that since there was no evidence to show she was a child when she was allegedly maltreated, Angeles could not be held liable for child abuse.

It said the older complainant appeared to be more of a maid than a maid. Considering that she grew up with and was sent to school by Angeles.

Angeles was the judge who handed down the guilty verdict against members of the Aguila Legis, law fraternity in the hazing death of Nonoy Lee, student Leo Villa.

She also sentenced to death child rapist Leo Echegaray and three other men found guilty of robbery with homicide, also in 1995.

But their death sentences were commuted. With report from Cynthia Cruz, Correspondent

Corrections

IN THE JUNE 12 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Dubuya's wife: Boss editor hit in last full dinner"—misspelled the surname of the actress of the late actor Rudy Fernandez. The actress's name is Maria Fernandez—not Fernandez.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 13 ISSUE, a front-page article—"Walk in the dark, but signalan de humor si Dakar"—misnamed Dan the signaler de humor fund beneficiary of June 12 celebrations in Makabalang since the time of American Governor General William Taft. During Taft's tenure, it was America's Independence Day that was celebrated in Makabalang and the fall on the fourth of July. When the Philippines became free from American rule on July 4, 1946, the country began celebrating Independence Day also on the fourth of July. But in 1962, President Diosdado Macapagal changed the date of the celebration to June 12 in accordance with Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's declaration of independence from Spain in 1898.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 14 ISSUE, a Business article on Page B3—"Income in RP savings seen with new law on retirement"—misspelled the name of a senator. The senator's name is Edgardo—not Edgardo—Angara.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 15 ISSUE, a story on Page A17—"How do you celebrate if uncle's not around?"—misspelled the name of a comedian of the National Democratic Front who is detained in Camp Crame. The comedian's name is Elizabeth Principe—not Priedjie.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections to the Inquirer Newsroom, 5th Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 888 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Amorsolo St., Makati City, Fax No. 897-8745 loc. 2 or e-mail address: dailyinq@inquirer.com.ph.

Militants seek Senate sponsor for GARB

FARMERS AND PEASANT GROUPS OPPOSED to the extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) are looking for at least one senator willing to support their own radical version of land reform, or GARB (Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill).

In a joint press statement released yesterday, the militant farmers group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, the fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, the agricultural workers group Unyon ng Mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura and the peasant women's federation Amihan said they were looking for "a patriotic and pro-farmer" senator who would sponsor GARB.

GARB provides, among others, for the automatic reversion of all big land holdings in the country and their free distribution to farmers.

GARB has already been filed in the House of Representatives. Tagged as House Bill No. 2039, it was authored by the Ang Mamamayan Rep. Crispin Beltran and is now being pushed by his allies—Reps. Mona Magsaysay-Ermita, Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño, Gabriela lawmakers Liza Maza and Luzviminda Ilagan.

The new Arroyo-era party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano is expected to lead the campaign for the passage of GARB. Beltran died last month after falling from the roof of his house. Jerome Aning

Public schools lack toilets, teachers lament

By Joey E. Espinosa

MILITANT TEACHERS HAVE DEPLORED THE severe shortage of toilets and hand-washing facilities in most, if not all, of the 43,000-plus public elementary and high schools nationwide.

"The worst shortages are in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the National Capital Region (Metro Manila)," said Antonio Tinio, chair of the 10,000-strong Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT).

Tinio pointed out: "The national ratio [used to] pupil toilet stands at 1:50 in primary schools and 1:100 in secondary schools. In the ARMM, it's 1:377, in the elementary level and 1:286 in the secondary level while in NCR, it's 1:114 and 1:143, respectively."

"We challenge President Macapagal-Arroyo, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and other top government officials to make use of these facilities themselves the next time they visit a public school. Go to the men's toilet stalls, not the one reserved for VIPs. Maybe, this will spur them to act," he said.

Failure to communicate

He noted that "the national and regional monitors fail to communicate the full extent of the shortages or the school level."

"Take the case of Ibiraguas Elementary School (Annex) in Taguig, Metro Manila. Last year, all 2,835 students enrolled in that school were provided with one toilet bowl. That's a toilet bowl to pupil ratio of 1:2,835," said Tinio.

He cited other public schools with disgraceful toilet bowl-to-pupil ratio: Emi. T. de Leon Elementary School in Valenzuela City, Calamocan Central Elementary School in Caloocan City, Bagong Elementary School in Malabon, San Antonio Elementary School in Pandacan City, Geronimo Santiago Elementary School in Manila, Kamfamy Elementary School in San Juan, Epifanio delos Santos Elementary School in Pasay City and Ibay Bio del Pilar Elementary School in Makati City.

Safe, healthy learning environment

Also cited are: Bahayan National High School in Caloocan City, Tuguing National High School in Malabon, Ibarras National High School in Pateros, Pala-la National High School in Valenzuela, Calderon Integrated School in Manila, San Enrique High School in Marikina, San Antonio National High School in Makati City, Andres Bonifacio Integrated School in Mandaluyong, and Las Piñas East National High School in Las Piñas.

"The government has an obligation to provide the country's 19 million public school students with a safe and healthy learning environment. This includes the obligation to provide adequate toilets and hand-washing facilities," said Tinio.

Adequate water supply

He added: "The lack of facilities is also compounded by the lack of adequate water supply ... Other countries strive to attain a toilet per student ratio of 1:25 for girls and 1:30 for boys."

In a statement, Tinio explained "poor health is a major factor that contributes to high dropout rates, especially among underprivileged schoolchildren. Adequate toilets and washbasins are necessary to help reduce the risk of enteroviral diseases, such as diarrhea, as well as flu and cold infections."

'Hot money' flowing out

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE PULLING their money out of local stocks and bonds on fears over rising inflation and slowing economic growth, resulting in a net outflow of portfolio investments or "hot money" for the third month in a row in May.

About $136 million worth of foreign "hot money" fleeted out of the country in May, bringing net foreign portfolio outflows in the first five months of the year to $271.76 million, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

This was a sharp reversal from the $1.68 billion in net portfolio inflows recorded in January to May last year.

"The continued spiraling of oil and other commodity prices, the slowdown in economic growth and reports of mixed corporate earnings counts to the first quarter, as well as the weakening of the peso contributed to the negative investor sentiment during the period," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

Tetangco reported that investments in local stocks posted outflows of $97.18 million in the first five months while placements in government securities and peso bank deposits also recorded outflows of $33 million and $1.2 billion, respectively, during the period.

The outflows in May were more than thrice the $49.89-million outflows in April, but lower than the net outflow of $197.75 million in March.

BATANGAS POLL VIOLENCE

Ex-mayor, 3 cops cleared of arson, slays

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS cleared a former Batangas town mayor and three policemen of arson and triple homicide charges in connection with the burning of a school building immediately after the 2007 elections that left a teacher and two poll watchers dead.

Cleared were Former Tayum Mayor Hernando Villena, Insp. Roberto Rubio, SPO2 William Bebes and Supt. Roger Bellaluna.

No evidence

In his 23-page resolution, acting provincial prosecutor Alvin Navarro said there was no evidence to show the four had conspired to burn down the Pinagkanaan Elementary School on May 13 last year.

In clearing Villena, Navarro said no evidence was presented to show the former mayor who was running for reelection had coordinated with the policemen to raze the school and that he was to benefit from the act.

Misunderstood statements

Navarro said the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), which filed the complaint, had misunderstood Villena's statements in TV interviews and made much of his admission that Rubio was his godson.

As for witness and poll watcher Cesar Sayson's identification of Bartuda as one of the men involved in the school burning, the prosecutor said this was questionable.

He noted that Sayson had said he would recognize the men if he saw him again.

But Bartuda was present when Sayson met with the cartographer of the National Bureau of Investigation and the latter swore Sayson failed to recognize Bartuda even as he was describing him to the cartographer.

'Bereft of surprise, shock'

"The records are bereft of any hint of surprise or shock which he (actor him) is but with Bartuda," Navarro said.

He also noted that Bartuda was at the scene of the blaze when the firefighters arrived in "routine logic and common human experience" that the culprit would reappear at the crime scene and risk being recognized, Navarro said.

In the case of Rubio, the prosecutor said there was no direct evidence linking him to the crime, despite the CIDG's allegation he had served the search and seizure warrants on followers of Villena's rival candidate.

Rubio was not identified by witnesses in the police lineup, he said.

As for Bellaluna, Navarro leaked the CIDG's contention that it was he who signed the letter making Bartuda's team a strike force for Villena to monitor the elections.

The prosecutor said it was among Bellaluna' duties to deploy police personnel to ensure the peace.

SYNDICATED ESTAFA RAPS

Top Meralco execs ordered to appear before DOJ

By Lala B. Salaverria

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. OFFICIALS were directed to appear before the Department of Justice next month in connection with the complaint accusing Meralco syndicated estafa for allegedly misappropriating P889 million in customers' money.

Regional State Prosecutor Aimee Torjal directed the officials, led by Meralco chair Manuel Lopez and president Jesus Francisco, to appear at the DOJ on July 8 at 10 a.m. for the preliminary investigation of the criminal complaint.

Other officials named respondents in the complaint were Directors Ramon del Rosario and Jeffrey Ballps Albano; Arthur Ordonez A., Gregory Domingo, Octavio Espiritu, Clarissa Manzo, Federico Pasa, Washington Sycip, Emilio Vicera, Cesar Vieira and Francisco Viray; chief financial officer Daniel Tigbao; treasurer Rafael Ballps; corporate auditor Helen de Guzman; assistant comptroller Antonio Abaya; and assistant treasurer Eduardo Fernando.

Lopez said the officials would be prohibited if they failed to appear on the DOJ's office.

Customers' deposit

The syndicated estafa complaint was filed late last month by members of the Parkland Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform (Parcor).

Francisco said Meralco declared as income P889 million in consumers' money which represented part of the interest earned by money and bill deposits of the Sear's subsidiaries. The latter's customers' deposits amount to about P22 billion.

The Energy Regulatory Board increased the interest on the customers' deposits from 6 percent to 10 percent in 1993. Meralco then classified 6 percent of the interest under customers' deposits, while the remaining 4 percent was classified under the operating reserves account. The 4-percent was later classified under the customers' deposits account.

Francisco said that in Meralco's Dec. 31, 2006 financial statement, the company reclassified the 4 percent interest from the customers' deposits account to the "interest and other income account."

This reclassified nonappropriation increase the interest on the customers' deposits and "keep customers' money being held in trust by Meralco, the group said.

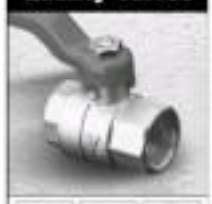
Get competitive rates and a chance to win P1 Million a month and P5 Million in the grand draw.

	$1,000 to $ 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	2.000%	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
2 months	2.000%	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
3 months	2.000%	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%

Hurry! Join now for a minimum deposit of US $2,000 only. Promo runs up to July 31, 2008.

PSBank US Dollar Time Deposit

Quality Valves



available in different sizes
ball valve • gate valve • check valve
foot valve • bibcock

DEXTERTON

Spot market prices hit . . .

Back page A1

month partly because of the low prices in the WESM.

While the power industry was geared for high demand and low availability of supply from hydropower plants in May, "we got the opposite," he said.

Helopoonan said the reduced prices should be reflected in the June billing of customers of distribution utilities and firms that take part in the wholesale market.

In a briefing, Helopoonan said last month's effective settlement price at the spot market was the lowest since WESM started in July 2006.

Increase in supply

PEMC data show that in May there was a "significantly lower" average demand of 5,815 megawatts, or 4 percent lower than the 6,049 MW in the same month of 2007.

There was also an increase in supply at 6,344 MW, which was 10 percent higher than the 5,766 MW in May last year.

At the same time, a high level of availability of generation plants contributed to the low price, according to PEMC.

The contribution of hydroelectric plants to the power generation mix increased from 31.1 percent last year to 32.1 percent this year.

Diesel and oil-based plants contributed 11.8 percent only compared to the 23.8 percent in the same month last year.

June billing

Because of these factors, the peak demand did not occur in May as it did in previous years, said Mario Pangilinan, head of PEMC's market operations.

"Depending on the changing weather conditions, the WESM is anticipating the maximum peak demand to occur in June or early July. So it remains uncertain whether these prices will continue into June," Pangilinan said.

About 11 percent of total demand in Luzon for the month was bought at the spot price, according to PEMC.

The huge drop in prices at the WESM caused Iberdrola Renovables Inc.'s chairman, concurrent to control Bar Electric Power Iberdrola Renovables Inc. (Iberdrola) to review the "value or true per-value" of government's contracts with independent power producers (IPPs).

Iberdrola owns ownership of distribution utilities Manila Electric Co. and IPPs. The value or true per-value compels consumers to pay for electricity that they did not use.

Corporate brawl

The drop in wholesale prices also came at a time when the president of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), which has a significant stake in Meralco, threatened to unseat control of Meralco management from the Lopezes, who also own IPPs.

GSIS president Winston Garcia claimed that Meralco rates were the highest in the country and the unexpected budget by Aziz because of the investment deals of the utility with the Lopez IPPs and other Lopez-owned firms, among other reasons.

Denying Garcia's allegations, the Lopezes said rates were the main reason Meralco rates were high.

Tracing clients like syndicants

Estrella Elamparo, GSIS chief legal counsel, said Meralco was sending its 4.4 million customers like "syndicants who should not ask for more than a reduction of 42 centavos."

"This is just a temporary reduction by Meralco due to the fluctuation in the price of power in bays from the WESM," the lawyer said in a statement.

If Meralco really wanted to reduce its rates, then it should do so by reducing its distribution charge, according to Elamparo.

Elamparo said the distribution charge of Meralco was increased by to position cost and to "shared maintenance with reduction of the transformer and equipment per unit and life reduction."

Meralco can also make a change cut in the price-on generation charge if it switches to "reserve" IPP contracts with Lopez-owned power generators First Gas Power Corp. and FGP Corp., the said.

Assured P20-B payment

The IPPs supply 30 percent of Meralco's power.

The said the two IPPs were assured of payment of P20 billion a year to capacity fees even if they were unable to deliver on their contract for 1,300 megawatts of power.

"Meralco sources only 30 percent of the power it distributes from the spot market. Thus, any reduction from it would be minimal, if not zero, and the more 40 centavos reduction announced by the company," Elamparo said.

He reiterated that through the reform being espoused by the GSIS, Meralco would easily reduce its rates by P2 to P3 per kWh, "and not just by 42 centavos which are mere crumbs compared with what Meralco customers should be getting."

Unappreciated

On Monday, Meralco vice president Ilpi O. Gatchi said it appeared that whatever Meralco did wasn't it would benefit domestic consumers would remain unappreciated by Elamparo.

Garcia said Elamparo should stop "what is now essentially Meralco's business" (which is) not only unfair but a disservice to electric consumers."

"The problem with the GSIS lawyer is that she only says what she wants to say," Garcia had said. "Why doesn't she instead take a look at the voluminous complaints of their members who have either yet to extend their promotions on time or not to extend them at all."

REEVES & ASSOCIATES

AbA Has Staff Who Were Formerly Employed by The USCIS (previously INS) State Department (US Embassy), and The Immigration Courts

- Retired U. Removes Board Certified Immigration Law Specialist
- AbA Is the Leading Full Service Immigration Firm in The United States Practicing Immigration Law Exclusively
- AbA Is Internationally Known for Its Success in Obtaining Family & Business Visas, Deportation Defense and Finding Solutions for Complex Cases
- Backed by a Team of Immigration Experts & Professionals Devoted Exclusively to Obtaining Non-Immigrant and Immigrant Visas
- Has Successfully Represented Over 20,000 Clients

Call us for your immigration needs
1-800-772-3837 or (2)759-6777
visit www.reeves.com

"We make success stories happen everyday."

SHOW! Don't Tell.

only P31,990 a year warranty

InFocus The Big Picture www.infocus.com

Special Offer!

FREE Printer

IN26+

₱44,990*

Distributed by: American Technologies, Inc. • Tel: 713-0800 to 11 • Fax: 713-0995 • Website: www.atl.com.ph

Lifestyle changes trigger . . .

Back page A1

researchers, comprehensive lifestyle changes including a better diet and more exercise can lead not only to a better physique—but also to swift and dramatic changes in the genetic level.

In a small study, the researchers tracked 30 men with low-risk prostate cancer who decided against conventional medical treatment such as surgery and radiation or hormone therapy.

The men underwent three months of major lifestyle changes, including eating a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes and soy products; moderate exercise such as walking for half an hour a day; and an hour of daily stress management methods such as meditation.

Profound changes

As expected, the subjects lost weight, lowered their blood pressure and saw other health improvements.

But the researchers found more profound changes when they compared the men's prostate biopsies taken before and after the lifestyle changes.

After the three months of lifestyle change, the men who recorded changes in activity in about 500 genes—including 48 that are known to be linked to cancer—had their cancers turned off, according to the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The activity of disease-preventing genes increased, while a number of disease-promoting genes, including those involved in prostate cancer and breast cancer, shut down.

The research was led by Dr. Dean Ornish, head of the Preventive Medicine Research Institute in Sausalito, California, and well-known author advocating lifestyle changes to treat heart disease.

"It's an exciting finding because so often people say, 'Oh, it's all in my genes, what can I do?' Well, it turns out you may be able to do a lot," Ornish, who is also affiliated with University of California, San Francisco, said in a telephone interview.

Proxy exciting

"In just three months, I can change hundreds of my genes simply by changing what I eat and how I live? That's pretty exciting," Ornish said. "The implications of our study are not limited to men with prostate cancer."

Ornish said the men avoided conventional medical treatment for prostate cancer for the reasons explained in the study.

But in making that decision, the men allowed the researchers to look at biopsies in people with cancer before and after lifestyle changes.

"It gave us the opportunity to have an ethical reason for doing repeat biopsies in just a three-month period because they never had that anyway to look at [how] clinical changes [in their prostate cancer]," Ornish said.

Reuters

NO MORE OBJECTIONS

Miriam sees OK of Jpepa in August

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR Santiago expects the Senate to ratify the Japan Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) by August following assurances from the Japanese ambassador that the pact would not violate any provisions of the Philippine Constitution.

Santiago told reporters that Japanese Ambassador Makoto Katsura "perhaps in a desire to cultivate Mr Japan thoroughly," had given her a birthday present (she celebrated her birthday on June 13) by writing down what could be the content or the substance of a potential exchange of notes between Japan and the Philippines.

Exchange of notes

"The Japanese ambassador has indicated that he is amenable to an exchange of notes that he will sign, on authority of Tokyo, where we shall enumerate what constitutional provisions are specifically exempted from the application of the Jpepa," said Santiago.

The senator said the exchange of notes would "supposedly address" the issues raised against Jpepa, which if left hanging, might be used as a basis for a case assailing the agreement in the Supreme Court.

Santiago said the first clarification in the exchange of notes, which would take place after the Senate ratifies the Jpepa, would be a promise from Japan to comply with the Philippine Constitution with respect to health and ecology (which would address the question of pollution) and national treatment (where Philippine and Filipino companies would be given preferential treatment).

She said there were no more objections to Jpepa from her colleagues in the Senate as the minority leader himself was conversing with her counterparts.

"We expect all administration senators to sign Jpepa and I do not expect the Minority Leader to accept the offer of the Japanese government," said Santiago.

Esperon puts on peacemaker's hat

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE Peace Process Hermogenes Esperon Jr. took his oath before President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday and promptly made a presentation on what he hoped would see the return to the peace table of the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Speaking to reporters later, Esperon said he could not reveal what was in his report as this had to do with the government negotiations with the MILF which had stalled since last year.

The former armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff said he had been going around talking "to the other side" since being appointed on June 6 and he hoped the President would give the government peace panel "clearances and some guidelines" after yesterday's presentation.

He said his aim was for an agreement to be signed within a year.

"I am not sidestepping the desire of the President to have an agreement with the MILF whether this will be a partial or final agreement, so that the people will not be acutely alienated that we're not moving forward in the peace process," he said.

Charter changes

But some agreements between the government and the MILF may violate the Constitution, said another peace panel official yesterday, The Associated Press reported.

A just-completed government legal study showed the Constitution would have to be amended or legalize some initial accords with the MILF to bring the years-long talks to a successful conclusion, said chief government negotiator Rodolfo Garcia.

MILF negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said the legal study was a setback and would only prolong the impasse at a time when tensions were rising because of the stalled talks.

"It's a blunder. They're treading a dangerous path," Iqbal said.

Both sides have forged several "consensus points" on the contentious issue of the size of a southern region that could be administered by Moros under a final peace accord. The government has now declared it would submit the points to a legal review, prompting the MILF protest.

With an AP report

PEACE Adviser Hermogenes Esperon takes his oath before President Arroyo. | PHOTO: JAY ISLES

Minimum wage earners get tax relief

Turn to page A-2

Other benefits—holiday, overtime, night shift differential and hazard pay—are exempted from income tax upon the effectivity of the law 15 days after its publication.

The President, who was visibly pleased with the new law, said it was part of government's "immediate" help to Filipino families reeling from soaring prices of oil and rice.

A family of five living in Metro Manila should earn more than P18,000 a month to stay out of poverty, according to the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB). The amount is 16 percent more than the poverty line two years ago.

Personal exemptions up

The law increased the amount of personal exemption from P25,000 to P50,000 for all taxpayers regardless of status (single, married or head of the family), and the additional deduction for qualified dependents from P8,000 to P25,000.

Thus, a family of six, with two working spouses and four dependents (children, will have a total of P200,000 in personal exemptions (from the current P96,000).

In case only one of the spouses is earning, he or she shall be allowed the standard personal exemption of P50,000.

The law defines a "dependent" as a "legitimate, illegitimate or legally adopted child" living with the taxpayer and not more than 21 years old, unmarried and not gainfully employed.

PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

	Before (in pesos)	Now (in pesos)
Single	25,000	50,000
Head of Family	25,000	50,000
Married	25,000	50,000
Each Qualified Dependent (Not exceeding 4)	8,000	25,000
Family of 6 (Two working spouses, 4 dependent children)	96,000	200,000

Those provisions eliminated the old tax bracketing system under the 1997 National Revenue Code, as amended, which had specified tax exemption of P20,000, P25,000 and P32,000 for single, head of the family and married, respectively.

Senate's principal author

The new law amended Sections 22, 24, 34, 35, 51 and 79 of Republic Act No. 9424 (National Revenue Code).

"The House focused on increasing exemptions, [while] my bill [of Sen. Manuel Roxas, the principal author in the chamber, the old tax reformer, Sen. Richard Gordon, attended the signing ceremony in Malacañang.

"The impact there will be to ease the burden of minimum wage earners because it will give them hefty deductions," Gordon said. He, never theless, encouraged workers to save and "become entrepreneurs."

Other lawmakers who witnessed the signing were Senators Ramon Revilla Jr., Juan Ponce Enrile and Francis Escudero, Speaker Prospero Nograles and Representatives Exequiel Javier and Martin Romualdez.

Revenue impact

"The origin of this (act) was really intended for the minimum wage earners, but Congress decided to expand it to include middle-income earners, so we had to request them to assist us, to help us make sure that we arrive at a revenue neutral situation," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who attended the signing.

Teves placed at P3.16 billion the Congress revenue if not the tax exemption of minimum wage earners and at P11.1 billion the personal exemption of middle income earners—a total of P14.2 billion annually.

"That is now the challenge for us to generate the compensating revenues from those two sources (individuals and corporations) to arrive at a revenue-neutral situation," said Teves, who acknowledged that the task would not be easy.

Consumption to go up

He said the government would have to convince individual taxpayers and corporations "to assist us. So we will probably review from time to time how we are implementing the law in terms of generating revenues."

Teves expected domestic consumption to go up as low- and middle income earners would have more money in their pockets.

"There will be a net addition in terms of money in circulation and that will help generate jobs, and the economy will take for on the road to more improvement," he said.

Optional deductions

The Department of Finance hopes to recover the revenue losses from the imposition of optional standard deductions, Teves said.

The law also provides other taxpayers optional standard deductions in lieu of itemized income tax returns.

For the self-employed and professionals, the law gives them an optional standard deduction of 40 percent of gross sales or gross receipts, and 60 percent of gross income for corporations.

Teves said the imposition of optional standard deductions simplified the filing of income tax returns for professionals and resellers, small and micro enterprises, thus increasing tax compliance.

The finance department expects to gain P35.03 billion from the optional standard deductions.

BENEFICIARIES After President Arroyo signed the tax relief bill into law on Tuesday, these workers at a denim jeans factory will no longer have to pay income tax. Taxes will no longer be deducted from their overtime pay and holiday pay, among others. RICHARD A. REYES

University of the Philippines Law Center
INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
3F RECORD HALL, UP DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES 1101
TELEFAX 926-7167 924-8414 LOC. 209/210

Tax relief package favors middle class, says Monsod

By Dovie C. Dumlao

THE NEW TAX RELIEF PACKAGE signed into law yesterday will favor the middle- and upper-middle income earners more than the minimum wage earners, according to former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod.

Even under the old law, a household of six—composed of a couple earning a minimum wage and two children—was already getting an annual tax exemption of up to P96,000, Monsod said.

She said the only additional benefits the wage earners would get from the law was an exemption for their holiday, hazard and overtime pay that she noted that only 13 percent of the country's minimum wage-earners had those benefits.

Based on her computations, only P900 million would benefit the minimum wage earners. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday estimated that the government would give up P14 billion from the expansion of tax exemptions.

Cut back on social spending

"What they're doing is substituting private consumption for public consumption and public consumption goes to health, education and infrastructure," Monsod said.

"Clearly, what's good for the individual is not good for all. It means that the government will cut back on social spending," she said.

Monsod said it was hypocritical to say that the new tax relief package would help the poor because the middle-and upper classes would likely get much more.

Based on the same framework, she said the country's tax base would narrow to the top 20 percent of income earners.

"How can the tax system rest on the top 20 percent?" Monsod said.

Collaborate. Integrate. Innovate.

Two brands are better than one. Two companies that collaborate generate amazing synergy. Strategic partnerships maximize mutual advantages, productivity. With Amigo as your partner in data center solutions, expect to see and feel the benefits of working your full potential.

AMIGO
www.amigo.com.ph
call: +632.729.3000

Hewlett-Packard: The leading supplier of Product server innovations for ongoing commitment to provide a complete server portfolio that has the highest field and customer satisfaction and delivers growth. Product servers are available with an extensive selection of management software, storage and networking solutions and services and support.

'Like putting money in basket with a hole'

From page A-1

Legislators, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said in an interview on the Church-run Radio Veritas.

"It's like putting money in a basket with a hole in the bottom," Lagdameo said, adding their "deliverers may even aggravate poverty."

Lagdameo said that instead of handing out financial packages, the administration should focus on long-term development solutions, like eradicating corruption.

It's band aid

Senators Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Richard Gordon told reporters the government should shift its strategy from dolesor to achieving true self-sufficiency.

"This dole-out policy is band aid. Maybe this is stop-gap, might give a little help, but this is not the real solution needed by our countryside because this money will eventually run out without being the problem," said Roxas, an opposition senator.

Gordon pushed for an emergency employment program in irrigation and rice production.

"Right now, I prefer job creation instead of giving dole-outs—all of that is good, providing temporary relief—what is important is permanent jobs. You can have more jobs and create infrastructure at the same time," Gordon said.

He said the government could give jobs to people to repair devastated irrigation facilities.

"If you do that, you don't only take care of the rice crisis by making sure that you're able to produce what is needed—the gap in production—you provide them with buying power," Gordon said.

To mitigate the impact of rising prices of food, power and fuel, the government is selling cheap rice, has launched a P2-billion power subsidy program for "lifeline" users, or P500 for those consuming 100 kilowatt hours or less a month, and distributing a maximum of P1,400 cash stipends for every poor family under the P9-billion Abot Pamilyang Pilipino program.

'For show'

Ms. Arroyo has also set aside a P1-billion loan facility for operators and drivers of public utility vehicles, which will allow them to modify their engines so that they would use cheaper and environmentally friendly fuels.

Roxas pointed out that the government was wasting money with rides that hardly made a difference in the lives of ordinary people.

He said the subsidies were all for "political show."

Long-term measures to follow

Speaking at a forum, University of the Philippines Prof. Walden Bello said the P1-billion subsidy for public transport drivers may just be another piece-meal solution to the energy crisis.

"The problem with this is, it's another kind of a security kind of move," Bello said.

Comprehensive strategy

Bello, president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, said he was skeptical of the show because the government had, so far, failed to draw up a comprehensive plan to solve the energy crisis.

"What we're looking for is a comprehensive, emergency energy response plan short-and-long-term responses."

Bello proposed that the government subsidize fuel consumption of public transport drivers using funds meant for debt servicing, and charge motor vehicle owners whose oil is subsidized prices could be bought.

"We should keep gasoline users fined for a certain time, and only have them use every month. The government should therefore pay a subsidy for the difference between the fined use and the needed users," he said.

Palace defends subsidies

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. yesterday said the government had tapped the P134-billion unprogrammed funds in the 2008 national budget for the one-time P500 power subsidy to lifeline power consumers.

Andaya said the unprogrammed funds or "standby appropriation" contained "lump-sum amounts which have specific purposes."

Andaya explained that unprogrammed funds in the General Appropriations Act were "released only when revenues generated exceed the targeted revenues as enunciated under the Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing."

Speaking at a meeting with his economic advisers, Ms Arroyo said "short-term" measures were being implemented by the government to mitigate the impact of rising oil and food prices in the past.

But she said these must be followed by long-term measures to balance the country's food and energy security.

Speaker Prospero Nograles said the food and fuel crises justified the release of funds for the government subsidies.

Nograles said the legal issues being raised by some lawmakers in connection with the subsidies could be addressed later on. With reports from TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

RP to miss tourism target

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PHILIPPINES will fail to meet its goal of attracting 3 million foreign tourists a year by 2010 due to poor transport links, according to Tourism Secretary Joseph "Joe" Durano.

President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to significantly boost tourism by the time she leaves office in 2010 but, despite its white beaches and an English-speaking population, the country remains a bit player in the holiday market.

Durano said he was frustrated that the lack of airlines and hotels and unstable airports prevented the Philippines, with its more than 7,000 islands, from taking off as a major tourism player.

Still stunted

"Our existing destinations are now (has the number of destinations that our airports can offer, but we have to build up our capacity," he said.

A new terminal for Manila's international airport, originally set to open in late 2003, remained stunted due to a legal dispute as well as structural concerns. It was designed to handle 12 million passengers a year.

Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday neared the multibillion Mactan International Airport Terminal 2 (Viada 3) to check on the status of repair work and to encourage airport officials to persevere. He planned partial demolition operations on the terminal.

Tantrum

According to officials of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), there will be a new run-up next month at Viada 3 for a few domestic flights of Cebu Pacific Air and Philippine Airlines' budget brand PAL Express.

Airport development and congestion in MIAA's chief Time Brewster said Mina is set to hold on Friday's simulation of passenger processes—including check-in, security screening, baggage claims—with the participating local carriers.

"With rising fuel prices, I anticipate that international tourism will loosen.

Airlines are now charging for baggage, so we have to focus on domestic tourism. The upswing of this terminal for domestic flights will be good for domestic tourism," Gordon said.

This is the fifth time Mina has pushed the terminal for another inspection this year.

85% complete

The Congress oversight and transportation committees were rained Mina 3 arrived there, and the Joint Foreign Chambers visited the terminal itself recently for a private tour.

Mina asked about the collapsed ceiling, however, MIAA's development and reopening of flights closed, said that it's "85 percent complete."

Mina had twice postponed planned openings of the terminal to 2006 and 2007 because of structural defects traced to the March 27, 2004 incident, where a gypsum board ceiling at the terminal's arrival area collapsed.

Life safety risks

The agency's pursue engineering consultants advised against last year's planned partial opening because of "life safety risks" found around the terminal, a concern that Mina officials said were being remedied. With a report from Reuters

People's Choice

TARGET CCTV CAMERA
24-hour Video Surveillance in operation
☎ 892-9073

NIDEKA Made in JAPAN
• 2 Color Printing
• Built-in Back-up Battery
• Uses Standard Time Cards
• 1 Year Warranty on Parts and Service
892-9073 to 77

SUPER BRAND

PLATINUM 2007
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2002
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999

The CONVENIENT WAY to Drink Virgin Coconut Oil!
COGEL
Soft Gelatin Capsule
Available at Mercury Drug and Leading Drugstores Nationwide
Make (02) 771-0181 or 840-0841
A Quality Product of Tovarmedic, Inc.

IWATA
ALMOST 30 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW

mistercool
Mobile Misting Fans
Stay Cool Outdoors!
(02) 672-3827

RJ45 2Way Radio
4.75

REDUCE ELECTRIC BILLS
by saving up to 50%
AIRCON ENERGY SAVER
START SAVING ON COOLING!
(02) 672-3827

idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,700
P39,500

COPYTRADE

Victor EVAPORATIVE AIR COOLER & EXHAUST FANS
SALES/ RENTAL
Victor Hardware

generics
wholesale

Your best solution for your prized possession against fire and theft.
diplomat

SPEECHPOWER
Consistently rated excellent!
English Proficiency Courses
English Conversation Fluency
Intensive Pronunciation Course
American Accent Training
Oral Presentation Skills
Vocabulary Enrichment Course
Intensive Grammar Review
Speed Reading & Comprehension
Come and Observe. Classes begin today.
SPEECHPOWER

SAINT MARY'S College of San Jose

EAGLEWINGS
"Your Total Kitchen Solutions"
10
EAGLE WINGS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

PILOT
Experience the Ultimate writing instrument
V5&V7
Hi-Tecpoint
PILOT Hi-Tecpoint V5
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
PILOT CORPORATION

RP booze adjudged the world's best

By Cynthia D. Balana

PHILIPPINE BEER AND LIQUOR PRODUCERS continue to hold their own against similar products in the world, winning a total of 18 medals at Monde Selection 2008 in Vienna, the Philippine Embassy in Austria has reported.

In a dispatch to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to Austria Luglay E. Lacsamana said she received in behalf of their producers Cinelton and San Miguel Corp. five gold medals, four silver and one bronze for their beer and liquor products on June 3.

"Receiving the awards was a high point in that month's events in Vienna, where a Philippine food festival is ongoing at the Hilton hotel," Lacsamana said.

The dispatch, however, did not mention the specific beer and liquor products that received recognition.

Monde Selection (Selection Mondiale de la Qualité), the oldest independent organization in the field of quality selections in the international food industry, assesses and determines the finest of over 1,500 food and drink products from more than 70 countries every year.

Its selection returns into the "gold standard" for food and beverage quality in the food industry worldwide.

In Turkey, meanwhile, Ambassador Rolando A. Tolentino and two Filipina students won two gold and one bronze medals in international competitions held in various cities last month.

High school students Hayes Stelbo and Rell Trinidoria from Rosmaria International School in San Juan City scored a gold medal in the Third Young Inventors Olympiad held in Saarwijs, Russia Federation, on May 9-10 with their "Crystal Radio" Physics project.

The same invention won them another gold medal in the Second International Competition held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on May 15-19.

Earlier, the two won a bronze medal in the First Yuzpov Fanza Expo Invitation for Love and Peace International Project Olympiad held in Sakhalin, a university town west of Ankara, after they presented the power of Visran from mind "Bible and Qur'an" in Turkish. The piece is about living together in harmony.

Rowena Bandayrel; 48

ROWENA BANDAYREL, OF Silhouettenga, Ontario, Canada, and Quezon City, died on June 13, at the age of 48.

She is survived by her mother Mary and her siblings and their spouses – Minnie, Danny, Zy and Butch, Girlie and Mon, Jacqueline, Jing, Mario and Edna, Noel, Robin and Elsa, and Bobby, – and other relatives.

Her body lies at Glen Oaks Memorial Gardens, 3399 Mink Line, Oakville, Ontario, and will be buried on June 19 at Glen Oaks Cemetery, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the St. Francis Xavier Church on Mavis Road, Mississauga.

CALLING BUSINESS & SCHOOL PRESIDENTS
Be a trusted network nationwide and even beyond
2008 DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR DIRECTORY
50 PAGES, GREAT COPY AT LOW COST
Advertise in MACAPAGAL-NOYNOY ERA "BEGINNINGS"
Reservations and Inquiries: (632) 896-6000 loc. 3306 or 3307
Fax: (632) 896-6000 loc. 3306 or 3307
Email: dcd@yahoo.com
The Best PR/Ad Vehicle in The Diplomatic Post at P120,000
BOPO CIRCMarket Publishers, Inc.
Last 1994 Ads (Anticipated) !!
For Cultural Alliance & Public Information Services

Hospitals back hike in seniors' discount

By Kristine L. Alave

PRIVATE HOSPITALS are against a proposal in Congress to increase the senior citizens discounts from 20 to 30 percent, saying it would cause them grave financial troubles.

In a press briefing preceding the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAPI) said House Bill 877, which provides for higher discounts for senior citizens or people 60 years old and above, would put them in an "impossible situation."

PHAP president Rodico Jimenez said the current 20 percent senior citizen's discount was already causing them financial problems.

According to Jimenez, senior citizens use hospital services more than any other social group.

Growing

And the elderly population is growing, Census statistics show that the the population in the age group 60 and above, grew from 4.6 million in 2000 to over five million in 2005. The elderly segment is expected to hit 11 million in 2020.

Citing January figures from one hospital, Jimenez said half of the senior citizens that undergo medical treatments such as the ultrasound, x-ray and manual therapy avail of the 20% discount provided for them by the law.

A higher discount for them would "considerably reduce the income of the hospital," Jimenez said in a letter to the House of Representatives.

"If hospitals are further required to extend more discounts to its elderly patients, the margin that is supposed to cover the costs of their non-revenue units [housekeeping, laundry and dietary centers, for example] would be reduced," he said.

"The hospital may recover some of the costs by considerably increasing its rates but the prices might become prohibitive to most of its patients," Jimenez added.

Jimenez said the House committee on health has already finished its hearings on the bill.

Expect more:
savings and insurance that help you achieve your life
payday after payday.

Introducing
BPI DIRECT Save-Up
Automatic Savings + Insurance

Akbayan solon accuses NPA of sowing fear in Masbate

By Marlon Ramos

DARTY LIST ... Nikki Banaquel has accused the communist Nem People's Army (NPA) of sowing fear in Masbate following the rebel group's admission that they were behind the killing of a peasant leader allied with the Akbayan party-list organization in the island province.

"You have no right to intimidate people who want to fight against abusive landlords and for their rights to land in a way different from yours," Banaquel, an Akbayan member, told a news briefing yesterday.

"You have no right to torture and kill people just because they do not share your political beliefs," she said.

Akbayan called the news conference after Banaquel received a letter from Leo del Mar, a spokesperson of the NPA's Jose Ibagning Command based in Masbate, in which the the NPA owned up to having killed Mark Anthony "Bucalog" Vale who was killed by the rebels last December.

Tortured

Del Mar also admitted that the NPA briefly held Vale's brother, Salvador, who claimed that he was physically and mentally tortured by the rebels.

Banaquel said the Vales are leaders of a peasant group allied with Akbayan in Barangay Ibarig, Baiaan town. The group supported the extension of the controversial Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Del Mar said the NPA shot Mark Anthony Vale and tortured his brother "simply because they did not support the NPA's ideology."

She said the incident was not only "an assault to democracy and human rights" but also on community organizing and agrarian reform.

Banaquel said it was ironic to torture Akbayan and other people's organizations supporting the call for the extension of CARP.

The letter, which was also posted on the website of the Communist Party of the Philippines on June 5, was the communist guerrilla' response to Banaquel's privilege speech at the House of Representatives a few months ago.

In the letter, which was written in Pilipino, Del Mar denied that the NPA's "people's court" had handed out a "revolutionary sentence" on Vale because of the latter espoused a different political ideology.

The group also denied having tortured the Vale brothers.

"If they happened to be leaders of (Akbayan), we did not consider that as basis in handing out the punishment against them," Del Mar said.

goals,

BPI
We'll take you farther.

Expect more in your life with a breakthrough in Philippine banking: BPI Direct Save-Up. Save automatically from your payroll account. Get higher interest* plus free life insurance as much as 10x your account balance.

SAVE WHAT YOU CAN, WHEN YOU CAN.
Tell us how much and how often you want to save from your payroll account and we'll automatically transfer it to your BPI Direct Save-Up account. Start your savings with no initial deposit. Build it up with higher interest. Do all these while enjoying a low maintaining balance of Php 1,000.

WATCH YOUR SAVINGS GROW IN REAL TIME.
Keep track of your savings through BPI Express Phone, BPI Express Mobile or online at www.bpiexpressonline.com

FEEL EVEN MORE SECURE WITH FREE AYALA LIFE INSURANCE.
Get as much as 10x your account balance, up to Php 2 million life insurance coverage. The more you save, the higher your coverage. Be insured instantly, no medical check ups or premium payments required.

LOG ON TO www.bpiexpressonline.com OR CALL 89-100 AND LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN SAVE FOR SURE, STARTING TODAY.

*vs. regular savings account.

A joint product of BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank and BPI Direct Savings Bank
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor Php 250,000

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 23 No. 190

OPINION

Money for nothing

EVEN AS CHINA STRUGGLES WITH THE AFTEREFFects of an earthquake, massive floods have occurred in the heartland of its industries. The United States struggles with flooding that's going to have an effect on wheat and soybean production.

Our region is tense. From South Korea to Thailand, massive public protests over issues of governance have besieged governments. Even Kenya just has launched a renewed crackdown on opportunists, as the government gets nonplussed on the price of food and proposals to restrain foreign workers which required elder statesman Lee Kwan Yew to weigh in on the issue.

But it is the price of oil that has caused the most tensions in economies more comfortable than ours. Action so far seems too little, too late. Saudi Arabia said it would increase oil production, but instead of helping to lower the price of oil, it went up—an indication, to some industry observers, of the idling being made by speculators.

The Asia Sentinel reports that governments have no choice but to confront their policies of subsidizing local oil consumption. It said: "If all the oil consuming nations of the world were to agree to do away with fuel oil subsidies completely, such an agreement alone would cause the oil futures bubble to burst, oil consumption would drop and the price of oil per barrel would go to US$40 (Klein-Tabb's estimate) to US$65 (oil analyst's estimate)."

Cumbered with the increasing cost of fossil, the rising cost of oil has led to rising inflation in the region.

If current subsidies are wrecking the budgets of governments in our region with the heaviest fiscal situations than ours, their solution—to focus on more targeted subsidies—must also be taken in the context of these countries being better able to afford it.

In Indonesia, the government announced it would hand out 14.1 trillion rupiah ($1.52 billion) in cash handouts to about 19 million families. Relatively prosperous Taiwan slashed subsidies, too, and announced it will distribute $600 million to middle and low-income families.

In Malaysia, where the government reduced across-the-board fuel subsidies, gasoline prices increased by 41 percent and diesel went up by 63 percent. To fend off public resentment, the Malaysian government substituted targeted cash rebates for the subsidies: 625 ringgit ($181) for owners of cars with engines of less than 2,000 cc and 150 ringgit ($46) for motorcycle owners. The Malaysian government then told people could get their subsidies at post offices—and post offices were deluged with people. The government went further and announced it would channel the savings from across-the-board fuel subsidies to expanding public transportation and modernizing it.

Instead of justifying the population, the Malaysian government's policies have emboldened the opposition, which is gearing up for a massive rally on July 9. Now Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi is fighting for his political life.

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the new tax exemption law (which most critics deny relief to the unemployed) which will cost the government around P8 billion yearly in lost revenue. Proposals to scrap the E-VAT were rejected out of hand by the Palace, because if adopted, it would lead to an additional P4 billion in lost government income. Which, incidentally, means that the consumption of the unemployed will continue to be taxed, even as the number accorded tax relief is shrinking.

What is taking place before our eyes is the President embarking on spending like crazy to pacify Metro Manila. But the bidding so with an empty wallet. VAT was expanded to meet Napocor's budging debt; the stronger peso freed up funds to spend on patronage and populist chants. But the current nonissue dipping into VAT is more indefinitely, as the peso in turn has started to lose its value. All her energies are focused on short-term handouts, but there is not a word on longer-term solutions. As Ms Arroyo prepares to submit a new budget in July, what will be left to fund her conveniently pro-grams?

PUBLISHER Isaac Felipe
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Pe. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Alexander R. Lumicao
Associate Editor for Radio Ma. Elizabeth R. Enriquez
Opinion Editor Juan V. Mercado
News Editor Andrew T. Donosa Jr. • Chief, Night Desk Operations Hazel Pajaron
Chief, News Desk Team Rosalie G. Alejandro
Assistant Editor Francisco R. Buencamino Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jane P. Amamio Jr.
Editor for Circulation Asuncion Bautista
Chief Photographer Oscar U. Alejandro
Art & Design Director Ernest A. Villegas

Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Ma. Antonia Prieto Rufino Jr.
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Bernardo Bautista
VP for Advertising Ruel R. Olaes
VP for Circulation Sandra Sandra B. Tan

All rights reserved.
Except as provided by law,
no part of this Publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise,
without the prior written permission of the publisher.

CA justice accused of bias 3 times already

COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE VICENTE ROY-es has been accused by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) of being partial to Meralco in issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) stopping the latter from exercising its regulatory powers over Meralco. In a motion before the GSIS Ninth Division, the GSIS asked that Reyes be inhibited from handling the case involving Meralco, the GSIS and the SEC.

The GSIS claimed in its petition that Reyes was in contact with the lawyers of Meralco on the day they sought the TRO, with Reyes issuing the holding of a special raffle for the case. The GSIS argued that it was not by accident that the case landed on Reyes' division and that it was not by chance, too, that he got to be the ponente of the TRO issued in favor of Meralco.

The accusation was that the draft of the TRO had already been prepared by Reyes' spokesman even before the special raffle was held. The TRO stopped the SEC from exercising its supervisory powers over Meralco, after its board, controlled by the Lopez family, defied a cease-and-desist order (CDO) against the holding of an election for a new board without SEC supervision.

Meralco, as we all know by now, proceeded last May 27 with its board election, with the Lopez group getting five of 11 seats at stake on the strength of proxy votes being questioned by the GSIS.

During the unwelcome Meralco stockholders' meeting, SEC lawyers in attendance said the Lopez proxy votes had to be set aside because they had not been validated as required by the Securities Code.

The next day, the SEC issued a show cause order against Meralco and scheduled a hearing on this case. It was at this point that Meralco ran to the CA and Reyes stepped into the picture.

This is not the first time Reyes has been accused of partiality in deciding a case. In one of two other pending cases alleging bias and prejudice on his part, Reyes also stopped the SEC from enforcing the corporation law. A year ago, a case was filed before the Supreme Court seeking the dismissal of Reyes on grounds of gross ignorance of the law.

The complainant is Belinda I. Ribbon, president of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), who claimed that Reyes committed gross ignorance of the law when he ruled on a petition that had already been withdrawn by the petitioners, Emmanuel Soriano.

Ribbon also accused Reyes of obvious partiality by disregarding her repeated pleas to have the Philcomsat case not be hearing in division after lawyer Alma Beatrice Abellera had been representing them without his consent. It was Abellera, representing some lawyer allies of Soriano, who submitted the petition before Reyes' division after Reyes dropped from the roster.

The petition that Abellera's boss withdrew by filing an affidavit the CA to scrap the SEC from ordering the holding of the annual stockholders' meeting of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

PHC is a publicly listed company that is 86 percent owned by Philcomsat, a private corporation. Philcomsat, in turn, is 40-percent owned by Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp.

For years, no stockholders meeting had taken place at PHC, benefiting the Yuvo group who controlled its board in a holdover capacity. On Feb. 26, 2006, the SEC, through its general counsel Atty. Nelson Duncil Paner, ordered the holding of a stockholders' meeting of PHC on the petition of a minority stockholder.

It was this and other orders by the SEC that Meralco sought to enjoin when he went to the CA, but he later withdrew this petition after reaching a consensus with other PHC shareholders.

Raul Ribbon in asking the SC to dismiss Reyes:

"I have no desire to see a recurring case or controversy where therein petitioners Mr. Nieto, et. ready agreed ... to hold the annual meeting of PHCI. The SEC has the duty to implement such agreement since there is no longer any block for it to call that meeting, as to do so is harassment and among the shareholders since anymore.

"Simply put, the question is how can there be a decision on a case where the petitioners has voluntarily withdrawn his petition? Sadly, only this particular petition is fly-by-night case otherwise."

In that ruling, Reyes issued a permanent injunction against the SEC to restrain it from enforcing the law that mandates the regular holding of publicly listed corporations of shareholders' meeting and election.

In a privilege speech in the Senate that dealt indirectly and implicitly on the Philcomsat controversy, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile lambasted those for stopping the SEC from doing its job. Enrile even hinted at more sinister things when he said: "Beyond the time that Justice Vicente Roxas issued the injunction, P10.3 million was taken out of the Philcomsat Holdings Corp. funds for legal and PR expenses."

The question is where did that P10.3 million go?

The thousand case against Reyes and the GSIS petition could have been dealt with by the CSC to allow the case run on parallel grounds. They both concern Reyes' seeming misallocation of the SEC and his perceived bias for some of the parties.

In the integrity of judges should be free of doubt, it may well be that Reyes be inhibited from the Meralco case. Otherwise, like that issued TRO, the subsequent rulings of the CA division where he sits will also be questioned.

Justice cannot be served unless there's impartiality on the part of the judges.

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Again, change

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THAT WAS ONE GOOD THING THAT CAME out on one front page last Monday, a blast of fresh air in a stale room. The room, which ran into the inside pages, had a stately meeting pattern to go with it: the picture of those of the recent and latest working local officials of this country, one and all. The first three were Governors Antonio, Sonic Padua and Ed Panlilio, the mayor of Naga City and the governors of Isabela and Pampanga, respectively.

Our story said they met in Manila Tuesday last week, courtesy of the group, Youth Leaders Abig and Local Governments, of the top three in Philippine which sponsored the event. The three are the best known local officials of the land, having succeeded where others have failed. They've not only fought the bogus odds to get to where they are, they've fought more bogus odds to stay unsatisfied—unsatisfied—where they are.

The idea was for the three to share with each other and with the world their experience in good government and inspire others to tread the same path. Not least in the area of transparency and accountability, the two things lacking in the barest government. "Good governance," says Panlilio, "starts with simple things, low-cost expenses in the capitol, and the efficient delivery of services." The idea, too, was for the three officials to draw strength from each other, apart from public support.

It's a dicey proposition for some. I know Mayors and Panlilio personally but have yet to talk to Padua. I did express my enthusiasm about Panlilio and Padua appearing in People's Forum some weeks ago, and hoped they would appear in more forums to give living testament to the idea that good governance is still possible in this country notwithstanding the current regime's resolve to stamp it out. The one does better to offset the hope of something more organized and permanent. If you can have a League of Mayors or Governors composed of the finest rodent specimens to be found in the four corners of this benighted earth, you can have an Alliance of True Public Servants composed of the most decent achievers to cross to other from the bosses of this much-oppressed land.

I can only hope it's the start of something big. I've personally bullish about this for a couple of reasons.

The first is that you can't find three more thoroughly qualified persons to campaign for good governance. This country has not lacked for people who looked the world to rise to power, and it has not lacked for local officials who dreamed up ideas only dimly their terms. Bayani Fernando did wonders for Marikina, which had become the rape and murder capital of this country before him. But as well, it has not lacked for people who didn't dread (or avail) themselves to power but who didn't do anything for their countryside other. Their lowliness' virtue at least entitles them to not being named. What this country has lacked are elected officials who backed the odds, dreamed up their ends, served the people, and remained elected again. The three above have done so, to the utter consternation of many.

Those qualifications are that Salonga did not exactly back the odds to become mayor of Naga City. I could be wrong but I've always thought he was the favorite from the start. And Panlilio for all his bad longevity to popularity. But all three of them have earned their reputations faithfully and well, friends going on to oversee the growth and progress of Naga and the other two bringing their countrymen to take the first steps toward it. And all three of them have banked even greater odds, or wrought an even greater achievement, in the form of bringing honest and decent despite their positions, long or short as they have been.

They're the true face of the entity called "public servant."

Surely Inchoco's right. Politics is not a bad word, it is a good word. It is not something to spurn, it is something to embrace. It is how we use politics that makes it good or bad, it is how we use power that makes it elective or benevolent. The point is to get the right people to wield it. The point is for us to rightly wield it.

Which brings me to my other point, which is that it's time we ourselves herself in into a big thing. Harvey Keh, director of Youth Leadership, love the nail on the head. "If bad people in our government can join forces to serve evil forces on our country why can't the good people join forces as well to promote good governance in this country?" There's a wealth of truth in those simple words.

I myself am looking forward to that group growing with the addition of more like-minded public officials, ex or current, elected or appointive (though it seems like looking for 10 pair more in Indies and Gonzondo seeking honest and capable public servants from the ranks of current and appointive public officials), church (Cheryl Tiu comes to it) and the addition as well of political groups like Kapuso-an, civil society organizations, church officials like Angel Lagdameo, and outstanding citizens like Toto Bakero, Vicky Pedas, and every writer of a Magsaysay Award for good governance.

Research Diaries doesn't have to take the form for us of an individual from the ranks of politicians, he can always take the form of a movement, or campaign, or experiment like this. As with Americans, who can have been dragged through the dirt through endemic malaise, the era of Filipinos today is "Change." We can have it mandating like thunder from here to Cub-Cub. It's single-time in the form of an unelected and tyrannical ruler can spread in epidemic proportions overnight, an antidote in the form of a group of honest and capable leaders can work its effects just as soon overnight. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Where there's a way, there is, or will be, a will.

'Economic populism'

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

FOLLOWING THE OUSTING OF THE THOUSANDS of years of feud, oil and material utilities, the government, threatened by public unrest over inflation, has ordered that an populist measures mainly based on subsidies doled out to poorer sections of the population.

Over the past three months, the Philippines, one of the developing countries threatened by political and social instability has embarked on a program of subsidies that include a P2-billion power subsidy program which offers a rate of P0.05 each dole-in four-million families using less than 100 kilowatt hours of electricity monthly to help cushion the impact of high electricity rates; it also offers a P2-per liter discount on fuel purchases by public utility vehicle drivers in order to forestall a fresh round of fare increases, and a P500 per diem subsidy for each family in addition to the P500 subsidy. These cash handouts come on top of the P1,000 cash grant to the elderly and impaired and stockpiled by the National Food Authority as enable it to sell rice at P18.25 a kilo, against the current price of P40 a kilo in the free market. A further subsidy is part of the P41.5-billion program aimed at dramatically increasing the production of rice in the shortest time.

These subsidies are to be taken from the 11 percent value-added tax, which the government claims is a bounty from one of its key fiscal reforms. The public suffers are enjoined to be full in course of this windfall.

The government has not come up with comprehensive estimates of the costs of this ad hoc cash handout program, which appears to be the biggest spending spree ever undertaken by any Philippine administration consists of the specially-aptly-to-public" needs to end cash handouts along sectoral elections every four years. This current sphere is dictated by a more acute political contingency: the survival of a strong government coming to the end of its electoral term in less than a year. Indeed, this is what makes this massive subsidy program as ad hoc and as unplanned, as

harassed, thinly spread can catch hardly any to good the infrastructure building or boosting productions.

By the end of its term, the Arroyo administration is still intent on using bipartisan-ness candidacy to benefit the incumbent government, regardless of whether it will be favorably inclined or the opposition. But it cannot be expected to ensure a legacy of a structural budgetary-production program that would make the country self-sufficient in food, or at least in rice.

The government's responses to the food price and oil price spirals have been devised by populism, clashing to short-term measures designed to defuse public unrest over food shortages and more important, to avoid a repeat of the food riots that afflicted and that have also hurt the middle classes.

In his memories, "The Age of Entitlement," that he completed, retired chair of the ex Robert Reich, devotes a chapter on populism in Latin America, symptoms of which appear to be emerging in the responses of the Philippines to the current food price inflation that is also affecting a number of developing countries in Asia and Africa and threatening their governments with political and social instability. Caveopen, with hard-hitting, defines "populism" as a "political philosophy that supposes the rights and power of the people, usually in opposition to a privileged elite."

He writes: "I use economic populism as a response by an unsure-ahead populator or a failing society one characterized by an economic elite who are viewed as oppressors. Under economic populism, the government intervenes in the demands of the people, with little regard for either the long-term effects of the economic problems or how the wealth of a nation is increased or even sustained.

"In other words, the adverse economic consequences of the policies are ignored, willfully or mindlessly. Populism is most evident, as one would expect, in countries with high levels of income inequality, such as in Latin America. ...

"Economic populism seeks reforms, not revolution. Its practitioners are clear about the specific grievances to be addressed but its proposed cures are vague. Unlike capitalism or socialism, economic populism does not bring with it a formalized analysis of the conditions necessary for the creation of wealth and long standards of living. Popular leaders offer unsupported promises to remedy poverty without explaining how it is created. Instead, the prosecution of a corrupt elite who are allegedly stealing from the impoverished are numerous, over-ads. The leaders promise land, housing, and food for every one. Failure is interpreted ...

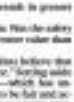
"In all its various forms, of course, economic populism stands in opposition to free-market capitalism. But this is fundamentally wrong, and is based on a misconception of capitalism. ...

"Economic populism makes large promises without considering how to finance them. Tax-of-ers, delivering on the promises results in a fiscal revenue shortage and makes it impossible to borrow from the private sector and foreign investors.

"This almost always leads to desperate reliance on the central bank to serve as paymaster. Printing a central bank to print money to increase government's purchasing power inevitably ignites a process of inflation that can destroy the cash through history has been toppled governments and driven dictators into exile."

Trust and reporting

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

THE KIDNAPPING OF CES DRILON, ALONE with her cameraman, Ginky Encarnacion, assistant cameraman Angelo Valdesamo, driver reporter Jimmy Dimasuhot, and their escort, policeman Ernesto Dionisio Dimaguila, is not just a big story. It can also, however, be the first journalistic commentary we take a long, hard look at our profession and the "rules" we live by.

The happened many sorts on, when news broke, behalf of ABS-CBN News, appealed to newspaper editors and her counterparts in other broadcast outfits to hold back on reporting the situation of the ABS-CBN team, reasoning that they will conduct and Ground contingency mostly "training," and that a premature disclosure might put them in greater peril.

Some succeeded in keeping the kidnapping under wraps for some hours, but eventually when the news broke, it was the social media that carried it, because the news a day late. Subsequent reports spread the calmness involved in agreeing with the request to withhold the news, and the "negotiations, a transcript of which was released by the kidnappers, and a statement issued by the family seeking the release of the remaining hostages. Beyond that, the willingness of news colleagues to play along with ABS-CBN, assuming the luxuries of employing "news management."

Here are some questions we have and have often grown up the coverage of incidents like a kidnapping. Dong Puno, who has worked indistinguishably as an adviser of kidnap victims and their families, believes that media should be extremely hesitant to withhold information from colleagues to play along with ABS-CBN, assuming the luxuries of employing "news management."

Here are some questions we have and have often grown up the coverage of incidents like a kidnapping. Dong Puno, who has worked indistinguishably as an adviser of kidnap victims and their families, believes that media should be extremely hesitant to withhold information from colleagues to play along with ABS-CBN, assuming the luxuries of employing "news management."

SET such appeals and the decision to play along or not can be applied only on a case-by-case basis, depending on such factors as the credibility of the person requesting for a news blackout, the importance of the story weighed against the public's right to know, and whether

holding back the story would result in greater public good—or harm.

Names aired a valid question: Was the safety of the four kidnap victims of greater value than the safety of Dado Lumibao?

As a general rule, we journalists believe that indeed "the truth shall set us free." Serving aside all those chief heroes, a story—which has an obligation to be told and told well—is not for the public—should be used as soon as a news-organization gets hold of it. Any delay, or deviation with any auxiliary consists of the organization, opens the door to self-censorship and news management, as well as double-standards in news gathering process, and the credibility of the newspaper.

But if you were a relative of Ces, Encarnacion or Dimasuhot, would you think justifying the curiosity of the public is worth putting their safety at risk?

* * *

THE KIDNAPPING of the ABS-CBN team also has some bearing outside the bailiwick of our practice of journalistic ways.

It is a war between the reporter and the source that claims possible a news story, and thus becomes the subject of the news story. Journalists, as such, are neither a creation of it—is revealed, and must between the reader and the newspaper that makes possible the continued practice of our profession.

But how can we do that?

I only very rarely see direct requests for interviews because I know I am able to write only between people are willing to give me their time, their thoughts and their story. Who am to begrudge the media that, or others on the same quest?

But we journalists know, too, that information is no exclusive, inexpensive or influence us, which is why we crave an justice, experience and background information to judge the words of facts and opinions before us.

But for a potential source to invite reporters into their and then very ground and hold us for ransom—that is an unreasonable breach of trust, and a issue for recall.

* * *

SEARCHING for resource on these issues, I looked through my bookshelves and found a slim volume, "Reporting Back: Notes on Journalism," by Lillian Ross, who made her name writing "reporting" profiles. But her reporter answers and share experiences in The New Yorker.

I didn't find what I was looking for, but some tidbit upon the following quote struck, aside it may not have a direct relation to the plight of Ces and her team, says something about what it means to be a reporter, especially in this age of "citizen-journalism":

"Reporting is not about the reporter, even though he is always revealed in the writing. If one is the kind of person who needs attention from others—who prefers talking to listening, who wants to be the star of a discussion or impression—one should not be a reporter. Reporting is about self—reporting is not a choice line of work. One should not use reporting as a way of getting noticed. If the work is original and solid and true, it will make its own mark, and the creator of it will automatically be noticed.

"Courtesy is all important. I cannot people who feel that the power of contribution behind them gives them license to bully people or be rude. It does not give them the right to write impolite or impatient with people who are being asked for information necessary for the story. People owe to writing about may not fully understand what I do on the writing, but if the reporter is honest with them, they will respond honestly on their own terms. I have found usually that being honest and open with people always leads to having them cooperate with me. And usually they appreciate what one writes about them."

An absurd decision

COMMENTARY

H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

at least that a court may not be used without its consent by bringing to court a defendant state. The rationale for this principle is that no unsued sovereign wants to appear before that assumed another would be an affront on the principle of sovereign equality of states. While this principle is of unquestioned observance, the June 15 Supreme Court's ruling in favor of the Philippine government in the case that it was given given rise to class actions and shareholder.

First, the Honolulu RFDA litigation was also subject to the principle of immunity from jurisdiction since Marcos was sued there in his official capacity while he was a sitting sovereign. Indeed, the US courts, including its appellate courts, ruled that immunity from suit would not be invoked where the acts committed were plainly unreasonable under the US manner. This principle has been reiterated in the US Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act which is based on the Paterchi case. There the Law courts were unequivocal in ruling that immunity can only be invoked for official acts and that the commission of international crimes can never be official acts since they violate international law.

Second, the Honolulu RFDA litigation proceeded precisely because the Philippines then under the administration of President Corazon Aquino, waived the immunity from suit of its late President Ferdinand Marcos. While the claim to the Marcos estate was litigated under the auspices of the Honolulu Municipal Courts, still the waiver that waived the immunity from suit was the state of the Philippines and not just a dispossession. It behooves both States and waiver who are

immunity already waived and which enabled the suit to progress in the first place is now being used to frustrate the recovery of reparations due victims of torture and disappearances during the dark days of martial rule.

Third, policy considerations militate against the invocation of immunity to frustrate the execution of a money judgment under a statute that seeks to promote and protect human rights. RFDA is the reason powers due to is precisely because it gives victims of the worst violations of human rights a recourse for damages in the courts of the United States. This statute has been proven to be an effective remedy for the victims of the Marcos dictatorship. If the Philippines is allowed to shield its ill-gotten wealth from all efforts and other forms of enforcement by making such acts expensive in the US, the ruling will surely defeat the very rationale for the existence of the law and the entire system of international law that seeks to protect the individual from the excesses of states.

Finally, there is the issue of morality. Do we as a government have only recently been condemned by no less than the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings to halt the practice of impunity, investigate and punish the perpetrators of extrajudicial killing and disappearances being committed by agents of the state. What better motivation does it have to frustrate the recovery of reparations for victims of torture and disappearance than to shield benefactors of a former violator?

But then again, this may perhaps be the motivation of the Aquino administration. But in some pile of years, like it or not, she herself may be impeached for the exact same act that she has for now effectively endorsed.

H. Harry L. Roque Jr. is professor of International Law at the UP College of Law and chair of the Center for International Law (Censel).

Vet Med at 100

TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILIPPINES 100th birthday based on the law (Act 1075) that authorized its establishment. One of the earliest units set up within UP was the College of Veterinary Medicine, which was born (on 16, 1908 as its founding date, although it didn't begin to offer classes until 1910.

I recently bought a copy of "A Century of Veterinary Medicine in the Philippines (1908-1998)," edited by Drs. Manuel Manalo, Maria Teangco, Eduardo Ingacio Jr. and Grace de Dumpo, to brush up on the college's history as part of its celebration for today's centennial.

PINOY KASI

Michael J. Tan

Veterinary medicine in the Philippines actually dates back to the Spanish colonial period. It was the Dominican priests then accepted the veterinary medical duties in the Philippines, which was formalized for the Philippines. This was increased to two in 1843.

The Americans established a veterinary department under the Bureau of Health as early as 1899, less than a year after it occupied the Philippines. The fact that the department was placed under the Bureau of Health reflects the initial role of veterinarians in human public health. It was not until 1905 when the veterinary department was transferred to the Bureau of Agriculture, to what is today the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The Americans included livestock taken (they constituted their first military conquests in 1900, and caused new rinderpest, a virulent disease, had into sweep through the country in 1901 and 1902, killing more than 100,000 cattle and carabaos. UP's first president, Murray Bailey, wrote in 1914 that veterinarians were an "absolute necessity to handle the development of the immense agriculture resources of the Philippine islands."

Like as much of UP, the College of Veterinary Medicine carried a strong American influence. The first dean, Archibald Sand, had the timeless OOH as a licensed veterinarian in the Philippines. The next two deans were also American. Thereafter the post though, the profession has become distinctly Filipino.

The college's first home was in Pandacan for many years, including the time I was in set school, it was in Sta. Ana, in a building named after Bailey. That building is now called the College of Public Veterinary Medicine and Training Hospital (VPTH), a kind of animal PGH, is still located there and will be the site of ceremonial activities today. Even if the college is now located in UP Los Baños.

The veterinary curriculum has evolved. It began as a fiveyear program leading to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.). It was reduced to four years in 1920, it went back to five years, but combining two degrees, a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. In 2000, the curriculum was again revised, and the years has withdrawn the SE in Agriculture.

That is over a hundred years of service today, starting with two pre-set years where students take the liberal arts and natural sciences, followed by four years of intensive veterinary training.

Dogs, cats, more

Most interns? Dr. Edmundo Bonjoc III, who likes to be known as the father of Chi Xiaoqing, was the dean when I was studying and he was always reminding us that a veterinarian has a more difficult practice than physicians. First, he'd point out, animals can't tell you how they're feeling so you need to develop the knowledge and skills to figure out what's ailing them, and monitoring how they're responding.

Second, you medicine have to treat a variety of animals. In our freshman year we were introduced to the joys of dissection, via large formalin tanks where we had to fish out cadavers of horses, cattle, pigs and dogs, dissecting each one during each year of the course. We also learned these routines, running through Noah's Ark with each of the different "p" subjects (physiology, pharmacology, pathology), parasitology (we study animals, so many parasites that one had to take two courses), and public health.

Second, you have to deal with clients (and pleasing caring). I still remember that typical pleading silent people ask for the dose of some medicine, smiling and asking, "Dyan dog? Four ear? Or you?"

When I was growing up, we knew only two veterinarians: Dr. Fe Del Mundo, who was a pediatrician who was also "veterinarian" and Dr. Cotton (also eventually became a doctor and not kind), dealing with dogs and cats. Today, there are even more clinics all over the country.

From 35 in 1960, UP was the only local university offering veterinary medicine, and graduated only 450 veterinarians in the next 30 years. Today, in 1970s, we still had three vet schools: in UP, the University of Eastern Philippines and Aquinas University. Today, I'm late count of the number of schools, and when I attend veterinary conferences and lectures, I feel packed ancient posting (by former president Ramos (11:30) and seeing so here now with members like 4000.

It's still a very small profession, with many vets leaving migrated to the United States, Australia and other countries with a demand for veterinarians. Even as the demand for doctors and nurses fluctuated in the 1970s, anti-trained veterinarians always found a ready job in the private sector or in government agencies.

The profession has broadened over time to all kinds of specialization, including a few dealing with exotic animals. We even have two young veterinarians doing internships at UP Diliman.

I ended up working with public health and eventually, medical undergoing, but many of my vet-work connections, including one of my favorite professors, Dr. Teodulo Tapia Jr. (The name, his father, was one of four who first received in UP's veterinary college), who is retired but still active in class and helps coordinate activities like the centennial celebrations.

Biodiversity is big game, one of the achievements of the veterinary profession, but there are still many challenges for the next generation of veterinarians, from controlling rabies (still a problem after all these years) to the day to day tasks of soothing and healing animals.

I can tell you I've seen dazzles in more crying when their caretakers weren't, and tough lolas weeping up all night for a sick cat. And once, watching a tough street kid sweeping up to our location he had helped nurse his puppy back to health. Maybe that's why I've always had a soft spot for dogs. I wondered if perhaps were play a bit another important role of helping us learn kindness, more caring and love.

* * *

Reunion at UP: There will be a grand reunion of UP veterinary graduates on Thursday, June 19, at the Sentosa Hospital in Diliman. The day will start off with **free planting at 9 a.m., followed by the unveiling of a** centennial marker created by National Artist Napoleon Abueva and the opening of photos and exhibits. Alumni association president Dr. Ed Ingacio and dinner and fellowship will be from 6 to 11 p.m.

Underpaid teachers being humiliated by plundering officials

THESE DAYS PEOPLE WHO DO SHAMEful for our underpaid public school teachers to sell goods like bangsilog, assorted products or umbrellas. These are dignified honest and creative means to earn additional income for their families to survive.

But to be sure, something is terribly wrong when government let its anxious and dedicated teachers be subjected to such humiliating chores just to supplement their meager salaries.

Every year, we hear of the many deductions, including taxes, on the ordinary teachers' pay, while our elite honor guys continue to live lavish lives given monthly income.

No wonder most teachers are forced to sell goods to make both ends meet while they go about their noble task of molding our kids. Unfortunately, many have given up the teaching profession or become dissatisfied because their services are paid relatively much higher than their moonlighting jobs have.

Some evening news I watched recently, a public school teacher was featured selling cook-at-home lunch packs to augment her income. In that episode, she challenged the current government to take a leadership role and address the issues of workers' welfare. Our teachers have suffered much from government neglect. While they are doing their best—carrying huge and highly populating lesson plans, resulting to be heard in cramped classrooms of 50-55 students, and doling it out in the air-conditioned edge of their students, many people of power in government live in opulence, extravagance and scandalous living handsomely gained from people's money and plundered through graft and corruption.

—NORBERT DELILLA,
general secretary
Kapatirang Manobelan Para sa Repormang Pambansa, 3-F NCCP Bldg.
479 Edsa, Quezon City

STA LUCIA HOMES NOW AVAILABLE

Cambridge Place
SUBDIVISION
DARASA, TANAUAN CITY, BATANGAS

Call:
Manila (02) 911-2240
Tanauan (043) 405-0417
Lipa (043) 756-2130
Batangas (043) 722-0347

Visit us at the site
SATURDAY JUN 21, 2008

DEVELOPER STA LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
www.stalucianealty.com

LAND OWNER Brentwood

MARKETING NETWORK ASIAN PACIFIC
www.apgc.com.ph

Rice crisis a global problem, not DA's fault

WE WONDER WHOSE BUSINESS GAETAN was coming from when she blamed the country's "food managers" for a global problem that is undoubtedly beyond the control of any government. (Inquirer, 6/28/08)

If Santos would travel to Vietnam or Thailand or even Bangladesh or Indonesia, during his current two-day visit here, instead of the last years in Thailand, the world's No. 1 exporter of rice grain, we'd be come to them in the Philippines.

The high cost of rice even in Thailand and other major producers around the world should be enough to enlighten Santos that current farmers' training, special provisions on seed prices of rice and other food grains can be used the control of any government or country, whether it be a net importer or not exporter.

We do not have to remind the owner of a people shortage because we, in fact, have adequate inventories of the staple in a variety of storing, summer harvest and aggressive world procurement by the National Food authority from abroad. What we are experiencing right now is a price shock resulting from a complex interaction selling the world.

One factor is stagnating production worldwide. The growth in global grain production has declined from 2.2 percent in the 1990-1999 period to only 0.6 percent in the 2000-2007 period, as shown by data from the US Department of Agriculture. Rural residents patterns in China, South Africa and elsewhere are changed by diverse changes—laws that produce out of rice, where and other cereals, that lead many to do something in town across the globe.

We are also baffled by massive fuel prices that have triggered a corresponding jump in farm production costs, especially petroleum-based fertilizers and freight rates.

Such a negative global trend notwithstanding, we are happy to point out that as a result of higher operating for agriculture during the Arroyo watch, palay production reached a record 16.14 million metric tons in 2007 and is projected to attain an even higher 17.32 million MT this year.

Secretary Arthur Yap and all of us at the Department of Agriculture are bullish on surpassing the 2008 production target as the summer harvest are coming in earning than fat.

Palay production growth from 1990 to 1998 averaged only 2.90 percent per year. But since the late-serving Macapagal-Arroyo administration, the Arroyo administration entered in 2001, palay production has increased to an average of 4.17 percent. The per hectare yield is also variable increasing under the Arroyo watch, from 2.37 tons per hectare in 2004, to 3.01 tons in 2007, and 3.6 tons in 2007.

Under the Rice Self-Sufficiency Plan being carried out by Secretary Yap, we are targeting palay production to reach 18.5 million MT next year and 19.9 million MT in 2010 to attain our goal of making this country 90 percent self-sufficient in rice by 2010.

As for the other point raised by Santos, we would like to tell her that Sen. Aquilino Pimentel dropped the issue after it was revealed that Secretary Ebdane in fact was never involved in grass trading.

—DIONG FERMIN DELA,
undersecretary and chief of staff,
Department of Agriculture

GSIS member ineligible for Conso-Loan, just yet

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF JOE Bataller-Congalet of the Cotabato City State Agricultural College (CSAC), regarding her inability to apply for a Conso-Loan. (Inquirer, 6/26/08)

As soon as the GSIS Naga regional office (RO) received the e-mailed complaint of Congalet last May 16, her personnel and loan inquiry record was checked. Our verification revealed that no payment was made for a year—that is, from May 2006 to May 2007.

Per GSIS policy, Ms. Congalet's membership last lapsed service record (SR) from CSAC last May 13. (This was re-applied her membership duration record.) (The SR showed that she indeed went on leave of absence without pay (LWOP) for almost a year—on from May 2006 to May 14, 2007—which her office confirmed, too. This explains why there were no remittances for her premiums and loan repayments to the GSIS during that period.

Congalet was also properly told on May 16 that after her premium contributions were posted, her record of creditable service (RCS) was 4.736678514 years. Her RCS would have qualified her to apply for a maximum Conso-Loan amount of P57,272. But her outstanding loan balances amounting to P27,110.32, including interests and surcharges due to non-payment of payable amortization while she was on LWOP, plus some minor fees, qualified her to Conso-Loan, would yield a deficit of P446.68. This therefore makes her ineligible yet to Conso-Loan.

We hope we have sufficiently explained Congalet's case.

—ELLIE VILLANUEVA,
vice president, Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

Disgusting product endorsers from Senate

THE SPECTACLE OF SOME OF OUR SENators endorsing products is disgusting, to say the least. Former Commissioner Mar-Chan M. Sweet and Jose Dadiez would never have stooped so low as to hawk detergents, health supplements, skin enhancers, noodles or chemicalized sweets.

These experts are chargeuring their office. Whatever happened to the concept of dedication? What will happen if the companies that manufacture the products they are endorsing encounter problems? Haven't these senators compromised their objectivity and neutrality? Will these companies enjoy preferential treatment from these senators?

Some of the current ads are in the guise of public service. But the manner in question can't hold as. Most investing them only to prime time television to maximize their exposure. They are shameless and manipulative.

Instead of tirelessly working in public service, they are running their time filming ads.

I call on the people to boycott the products the Sens. Pia Cayetano, Mar Roxas, Kiko Pangilinan, Chz. Bernardo, Lovin Legarda, Ping Lacson and Dick Gordon are endorsing. They should also not vote for these politicians in the next elections, whether they run for re-election or for higher office.

—BONIFACIO, Symmons Street,
Mandaluyong City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about any transaction of yours and process by the Inquirer, you may write to the Publisher, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12th flr Media Accrue, corner Finger and Mercedes Streets, UD of Makati or send a fax to 896-6785, 897-4704, 897-4704, or e-mail to inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and daytime and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer may not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Proof needed in genocide cases–UN exec

By Nikko Dizon
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A top prosecutor in the genocide trials in Cambodia says citing command responsibility "without proof of direct link" in the prosecution of cases involving extrajudicial killings is enough.

"It's easier to prosecute someone with blood on his hands than the person who ordered, or perhaps more relevant to the context, the person who let it happen," said Robert Petit of the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT).

"You have to prove that the person is specifically responsible in some way. Just holding a general responsibility for the action of subordinates if he had no way of knowing is just undermining the system," said the UNAKRT prosecutor.

Petit addressed prosecutors, lawyers and human rights workers during a two-day conference on the prosecution of crimes against international human rights and international humanitarian law here. The conference started on Monday at the Vista Mirage Hotel.

Targets of atrocities

The conference discussed issues that concerned human rights workers, journalists and lawyers who, according to a participant, were "targets of atrocities more often, suspected to be sanctioned by the state."

Petit, however, believed that evidence establishing links to masterminds in government or the military, it was "unjust to go after persons in authority."

"I'm asking you have to have that proof. You prove that every day [in court]. You prove that this person knew, or should have known, but did not act to prevent [the crime] and did not act to sanction [the perpetrator]," he said.

He said motives could be "very relevant" to sentencing because "not all murders are equal and not all murderers are equal."

"But if you put motive as an element that the prosecution must prove, for example, that you acted because you wanted to stifle dissent, or you wanted to prevent prosecution of a political-based crime, or you wanted to silence an activist, you are just making it hard for the prosecution," he said.

Distinguishing killings

Beatrix Gutierrez Jr., director of the University of the Philippines' Law Center, sought to separate extrajudicial killings involving human rights workers, journalists and legal professionals from ordinary killings.

He said distinguishing extrajudicial killings from murder or homicide would go beyond the definition of merely taking the life of a particular victim. He said a political slaying was "actually more a violation of certain state obligations or the rule of law."

Commission on Human Rights Chair Leila de Lima said the CHR would continue to monitor compliance by the government of its obligation under international treaties and instruments on human rights.

De Lima, who was appointed to head the CHR in May assured the participants that the commission would be "independent, credible and nonpartisan."

DE LIMA

Lack of due diligence denies justice in extrajudicial cases

Front page 4

and the judiciary must be brought closer to the people so that they can use these laws for their own good and protection," she said.

She AI official also urged lawmakers to "work fast" in crafting legislation improving the witness protection program and making extrajudicial killing a crime different from murder.

AI had earlier warned that killings and abductions of activists could surge again this year unless the government effectively prosecuted the perpetrators.

In its 2009 report on worldwide human rights, AI noted that cases dumped due to inconclusive probes, but said that "few prosecutions" were brought against the perpetrators.

According to AI, there were 15 victims of extrajudicial killings in 2007, down from 61 to 96 cases the previous year, while there were only several victims of disappearance last year.

SCENE DAILY The long lines making through the Naia departure lobby area are an everyday occurrence that passengers have to battle. AFP/NOEL CELIS

PAL's luggage limit to US is 46 kg, not 23 kg

Front page 4

PAL spokesperson Holly Fernandez yesterday said that passengers from Manila to destinations in the United States and Canada and back may still carry two pieces of luggage, each weighing up to 23 kilos (50 lb).

The airline has decided to adjust its load limit per passenger from 32 kilos (70 lb) to 23 kilos per leg because of surging fuel costs. PAL said other major US airlines had even started charging for all check-in bags, doing away with the free baggage accommodation.

PAL said would all pilots had doubled since last year and "have surged six-fold since 2002," crippling airline operations all over the world. Have passengers who were issued tickets before the said date have carriage privilege under the old baggage regulation.

"So a passenger who was issued a ticket on June 30 but will fly in December may still carry two check-in bags each weighing 70 pounds (or 32 kilos)," said Fernandez.

The airline's move followed a global trend in reducing baggage allowances because of rising fuel costs. PAL said other major US airlines had even started charging for all check-in bags, doing away with the free baggage accommodation.

PAL said would all pilots had doubled since last year and "have surged six-fold since 2002," crippling airline operations all over the world. Have

AMAZING SERVER DEAL

intel Core 2 Quad
Quad-core. Unmatched.

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ SC440 SERVER
PHP 33,990** Limited Units Only

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 840 SERVER
55,490

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ T300 SERVER
79,990

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 2900 III SERVER
149,990

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 2950 III SERVER
159,990

For product enquiries or quotation, please contact Dell** Authorized Distributor:

IRON FORT INC.
Unit 3001 G/F, Ariel Global Building,
Julia Vargas, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City 1605 Manila

IRON FORT INC
Fax number: +632-902-0786
Phone number: +632-901-0787 to 92

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
E-mail: ln_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Roberto B. Fernandez

Only good citizenship can save Baguio from decay

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

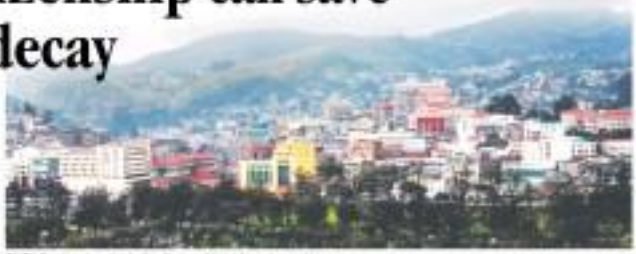
PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE of Baguio City used to be his playground. He and other teenage children would climb the thickly forested Mount Sto. Tomas, roam the pine and mossy forests of what is now Quezon Hill, and trek to the hot springs of Asin in nearby Tuba town.

They wouldn't even bother to bring packed lunch with them because they could dig for mushrooms or bulbs (wild tuberous), pick berries and other wild fruits, and drink from springs or pitcher plants.

"Ten or so neighbors (a Ibaloi friendly secondary's synonym) for each of us were enough for our lunch to keep us full for the rest of the day in the great outdoors," recalls 60-year-old Carlito Cosico.

Now the Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Baguio, Cosico is among true-blue "Baguio boys," who are not only nostalgic about the place that made their childhood memories whole and happy in the 1950s.

He is among a few pioneers who, after having noted how Baguio has been deteriorating over the years, now seek to reason it from further decay. How?


THIS is Baguio today which is often illustrated by modern urban problems.

Many people have been 'raping the City of Pines for a long time'

Getting involved

"By being citizens," Cosico says. "This means participating, getting involved, not being indifferent, chipping in your talents for the good of the community, paying taxes, following rules and regulations. And if you're in the government, making your office a public trust."

He believes the lack of good citizenship, which, he says, can be seen in a pervasive "me-first-no-one-else" attitude where many come to extract whatever they get out of Baguio, even if this means illegally building a house in a risk-watershed, for example.

Cosico agrees such mentality of extraction may have originated from an extractive industry from which Baguio was born—mining.

Baguio as an urban center emerged as a result of the mining industry in the neighboring gold-rich towns of Benguet, as industry that American colonial soldiers-turned-gold-prospectors began on a massive scale in the early 1900s.

With its mountain climate and the promise of economic opportunities, more and more migrants have poured into Baguio to invest money. Many came and squatted on public lands, taking advantage of a city government with no updated and zone land use and zoning policies.

Cosico cites, among other things, what is now Kisnon in Quirino Hill. During his childhood, the place used to be covered with pine forests and called Catchon Mountain, which is also the name of the nearby village. Now it's one of the densely populated areas.

The bishop and the environment advocacy group, Baguio Regreening Movement, in which he is one of the officers, have since been on a mission to save the watersheds.

They have not only led concerned citizens and students in planting trees but also are concerned over the demolition of squatters' houses in flood, a vital watershed.

Despite the maze of legal bureaucratic procedures required before demolishing shanties, "our battle to save whatever is left of our watersheds continues," he says. "The battle is ongoing even if squatters have remained despite hundreds of court orders issued against them."

According to Cosico, many people—big and small—have been "raping Baguio for a long time," with each one trying to extract what he can get from the city at all costs.

One of the malls in which concerned citizens have warned their lives is a subsidiary of a shopping mall chain. For months, officials and residents were in the dark as far as plans for the company to build another structure in a location of pine woodlot near the Baguio Convention Center.

Recently, an official of the firm told the city council about its plan to build condominium buildings on that lot. Because of public pressure from concerned citizens like Cosico, most members of the council have opposed it.

Campaign

"I would lead a campaign to boycott this mall if this structure is built despite concerned citizens' protest," says Cosico.

He says an official of the shopping mall had told him the company would look for an alternative site.

But apart from big-time threats, even ordinary residents are helping ruin Baguio, says the bishop. He cites those who use sidewalks for non-repair and vulcanizing shops, sari-sari (variety) stores and other business stalls, and ambulant vendors.

As one of those who contemplated the recent "Walk Baguio Walk" drives, in which government officials and residents are encouraged to walk rather than drive to work, Cosico admits that walking would be quite difficult with the lack of sidewalks.

When told that Marikina City was able to clear its sidewalks and succeeded in reclaiming them for the public, Cosico says replicating that experience requires strong political will.

Good governance, strong political will and people-exercising their role as citizens could rescue Baguio from further decay, he says. "But what all these require is love," he says. "You must love Baguio first so you can have the passion and the heart to serve the interest of the community rather than your interest."

Responsible citizenship, he says, emanates from love of one's community or country.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, in partnership with United Laboratories (Unilab) recently held the Inquirer leg of its medical literacy program. Newspaper vendors from Pasig (Rizal), Bagbaguin, Sta. Ramon (Bagbaguin) and N. Bagbaguin, Manila were given free medical check-ups as well as medicines. Here on its 2nd year, the program is Inquirer's one way of thanking its frontline business partners for helping it maintain its position as the No. 1 newspaper in the country.

LASER SHOT
Canon
The Canon Wait Loss Program:

STEP 1: Ultra Quick First Print
STEP 2: Zero Warm-Up Time
STEP 3: Superior Data Processing

How Benguet Igorot save on rice

By Delmar Cariño
Bagiuio, Benguet

BENGUET IS MORE OF A vegetable bowl than a rice granary, but residents have developed ways of saving on their rice consumption.

Jose Andres Sr., Benguet Farmers Federation's vice president, said the practice of "pinikpikan" or "binaliw" among the Kankanaey has been there for a long time as part of their tradition, with or without rice shortage.

But Andres said the country's woes over a looming rice crisis had renewed interest in the practice, which, he noted, the younger and educated generation of Igorot people barely knew or observed.

"Binaliwan" is a mixture of cooked rice mixed with sweet potatoes (camote), purines or yam, which when stewed last, would make the rice taste better.

"The root crop will be first sliced into tiny strips or cubes, then diced and mixed with rice before cooking," Andres said.

According to Lalina Bawasen, provincial agriculturist, the Ibaloi call the practice "binaliw" or "balwhey."

The Kankanaey and the Ibaloi are two of the four major tribes in Benguet. The others are the Kalanguya and the Karao.

In some parts of Benguet, the practice is also known as "pinapa," mostly in Mt. Province, it is called "alubadbad."

Bawasen said the rice mixing measure is akin to Cebu's "sabsab" or rice cooked with sinuom enough for one family.

Some also add "pinikpikan" (chicken cooked in a special way) to the mixture.

Bawasen said the practice is also a way to save on rice. "Instead of cooking rice alone, they mix it with root crops," she said.

Bawasen said the rather ibaloi still being practiced by Igorots but also sort of becoming a way to save on rice.

"The stands in a cafeteria are often served two hours after noon because the rituals and the butchering and offering of pigs must first be completed. Amid the chanting and the beating of the gongs, people are served first with sweet potatoes or yam to ease their hunger," she said.

Benguet has 9,227 hectares of land devoted to palay (but production statistics range of 14,536 metric tons of rice. It has 3,221 hectares planted with root crops but the yield is 15,948 MT a year.

Its major root crops are sweet potatoes, cassava, gabi, ube and taro. The data did not include potato production since potato is classified as a vegetable.

Ibaloi feature is also another staple for many Benguet residents, particularly among those who live in remote villages where travel makes buying rice from markets in town or village stores difficult, Andres said.

The cooked saba (a banana variety) has been accepted as a rice substitute, he said.

Roberto Cosalo, barangay (but of Barangay Tawang and Virgie Chaloso, barangay chair of Shockingan Sur, said their village towns are not bothered by a rice shortage since root crops are abundant in their backyards.

PIPC VICTIMS WAITING FOR JUSTICE

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

President of the Republic of the Philippines

WE ASK FOR FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE TO PREVENT THIS GROUP FROM VICTIMIZING INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE!

It's been a year after the Performance Investment Products Corporation scam which resulted in monetary losses amounting to more or less P6 billion pesos. We the victims are still waiting for justice!!

We are very disappointed by the decision of the Department of Justice consolidating the preliminary investigations of all pending and even future criminal complaints filed against the perpetrators of the PIPC scam into a new panel led by SSP Philipp I. Kimpo, even though preliminary investigations had already been concluded and were just pending resolution by the previous panel. Obviously, the consolidation of all the different criminal complaints will benefit only the perpetrators of the scam...

Michael H.K. Liew
Cristina Zamora Gonzales Tuason aka Maria Kristina Gonzalez Tuason
Atty. Manuel "Tonito" Zamora Gonzalez
Ernesto C. Sy
Ma. Cristina "Tina" B. Jurado
Barbara "Bamba" Garcia
Herley Jesuitas
Jonathan R. Ocampo
Gabriel A. Dee
Mario C. Lorenzo
Jonas-Karl V. Perez
Peter Donnellyn A. Barot

Nicoline Amesendo	Ducline Santos
Micko Nuida	Mike Flores
Eugene Go	Jimbo Aragon
Exxe Santos	Egay Flores
Jay Tengco	Jomo Silvestre
Mia Legaspi	Maricar Gonzalez
Mayonne Commons	Christine Yu
VJ Vergel de Dios	Stanley Chua-Unso
David Chua-Unso	Maria Pamela Blonia
Anthony Kiamil	Deborah Yalad

and other more agents who now only have one set of investigators to be concerned about. The decision to replace the first investigating panel and to consolidate the investigation of the **SYNDICATED ESTAFA and VIOLATIONS OF SECURITIES ACT** charges were based on a motion filed by the respondents led by **Cristina Zamora Gonzalez Tuason**. We were not given a chance to comment or contest this motion.

To date, respondent **Ernest C. Sy's** name has been suspiciously dropped. To date no cases have been filed yet by the DOJ. This unconscionable delay make it possible for the respondents to flee the country and escape prosecution. There are in fact rumors circulating that one of the major respondents in this scam has already left the country and is no where to be found.

Madame President we make this urgent appeal to you for help to ensure that our quest for justice will not be in vain-justice delayed is justice denied.

Across the NATION

NEWSBRIEFS

■ PUERTO PRINCESA CITY

Fire hits Puerto Princesa market

FIRE ravaged through the city market Thursday, destroying some P10 million in property.

Bureau of Fire Protection Supt. Cecilio Concepcion said the fire started around 1 a.m. and was put out by 6 a.m.

Concepcion said the fire spread quickly because there were no fire hydrants in the area and fire fighters had difficulty pulling the fire hose because of lack of water.

Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ TARLAC CITY

NPA leader's brother slain

AMBUSHED gunmen shot and killed the younger brother of New People's Army (NPA) commander Pungay here on Friday.

City police chief Supt. Glenn Sanchez said Danilo Pilan, 42, was riding a tricycle at about 4:30 p.m. when he was attacked.

Sanchez said Pilan, a member of the Liberal Party, was returning home from the provincial capitol in Barangay Maliduhon when the suspects, who took to hiding on a motorcycle, shot him several times.

PO3 Nathaniel Apostol said Pungay's wife, Renita, told police that before the attack, her husband went to the provincial capitol with a Sgt. Ildefonso Maang of the Military Intelligence Battalion.

Frinston Lim
Inquirer Mindanao

■ DAMUSSIG, ABRA

Abra's checkpoints for motorcycles

POLICE will search motorcycles at checkpoints here because most killings here have been committed by men on motorcycles.

Miss police director Senior Supt. Alex Paracha told a municipal peace and order council meeting here that one way to prevent crime in Abra is to set up checkpoints.

He said half of the murders in Abra have been committed in Bangued. "Six by-stop crimes here, your total crimes in the province is by half," he said. There were 17 murders in the province from January to June this year as against 34 that were committed in Bangued.

Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ SANTIAGO CITY

DA transfers office to Isabela

AS PART of its ambush Mayangan-Aurayo's directive to develop new export regions, the agriculture office of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Mindanao will be transferred to Ilagan, Isabela, Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III said.

He said the relocation of the DA central office would restore the "golden rule" of Cagayan Valley, particularly Isabela, considered the rice granary not only of Luzon, as the Northern Luzon agro-business spearheads.

Displaced employees would be provided housing allowances and additional benefits to cope with the transfer, Bello said.

Efigenio Toneja Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

Group says Macapagal airport used to smuggle women for sex

CLARK FREEPORT—A HUMAN TRAFFICKING syndicate has been using the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here to bring women from Pampanga to Sandakan, Malaysia, where they are forced into prostitution, according to an official of a nongovernment organization.

The police had issued an arrest warrant for the suspect, Cindy Gorda Zamora, last year but the entertainment commission in this city and Bataa Placido, executive director of the Bagong Bhaladobaryong Alayons (Dear to Pro-Women) Action Foundation.

Recruitment was conducted in Mt. Pinatubo resettlement area in Angeles City and Mabalacat, Pinatubo said.

Based on the accounts of five women rescued last year, the trafficking for prostitution operation operates in similar hiring agency.

Rape in Sandakan

In the case of the five women, one of whom was barely 17, they were promised jobs as waitresses. They were assured of P600 in monthly salary, including free travel fare, and board and lodging.

Upon arrival in Sandakan, they were reportedly taken to a brothel and raped there. They were then transferred to a brothel to a high-end subdivision operated by Chinese businessmen.

That brothel was packed with some 200 women, mostly from Pampanga.

A report of Ian Franklin—on the case said the brothel owner is subject of various accusations. It is said that several incidents are run in the same village.

Backdoor return

The women are flown back to the Philippines through Zamboanga, it was learned.

Zamora had been arrested but she had since posted bail, reports gathered by the Inquirer Mindanao said.

In a phone interview from Hong Kong, Clark International Airport Corporation president Victor Jose Lazatin, said that while the issue was an immigration matter, "we cannot allow or tolerate that evil work in DMIA."

"I'm calling a command conference upon my arrival to apply some measures to prevent our countrymen from becoming victims of human trafficking," he said.

"DMIA authorities will never allow the airport as exit or entry point for human trafficking and in coordination with immigration and police authorities, we will ensure total assistance to implement the same," said Lazatin.

Poverty, lack of jobs

Some groups had blamed poverty for the Philippines as the main factor that drives women into becoming victims of prostitution rings.

The lack of jobs was often cited as a major factor that made human trafficking a profitable underworld business in the country. *Rosalie O. Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

PERSISTENCE
Greenpeace activists, joined by residents of Barangay Ingore, continue protest actions against a planned coal-fired power plant in the area. Church leaders are at the helm of the protests, saying pollution from coal use was still a price to pay for filling an energy gap projected to decrease.

P1B in Catanduanes hydro projects pushed

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—CHIEF of the Sunwest Water & Electricity Co. (Sunwest), which plans to put up mini hydro plants here, reassures that the controversial energy sales agreement (ESA) entered into by the company with the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative Inc. (Fleelco) is likely to get the nod of the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Two Fleelco officials told Inquirer that the ERC would give the go-ahead to Sunwest on or before the retirement of ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano on July 23. But not although Sunwest's officials said in an interview that the process of approval could take months.

The ERC had a hearing here last June 9 and it is on the proved cost of the ESA and the actual hydro plants of Sunwest.

The Sunwest earlier entered into an ESA with Fleelco to supply power to the province's electric cooperative at P5.40 per kilowatt hour (kWh) as against the present P10 per kWh from diesel-powered plants.

It plans to invest about P1 billion in three mini hydro projects, of which P729-million will come from a bank loan while the balance will be shouldered by the Sunwest.

Boasting of a renewable source of energy, the Sunwest claimed the mini hydro plants will bring no harm to the environment.

It will also pay P27 million annually to the host municipality, P27 million to the provincial government and P36 million to the national government, Sunwest president Joe Silverio Estrada said.

"This is in contrast to the seven dams of the municipal and provincial governments and is P300 million less of the contract of government in Fleelco's use of diesel fuel," he added.

The projects has been endorsed by former senator Francisco S. Tatad, Ormoc vs Zamboanga Task Force chair Sen. John Ermita and Isla Gregorio R. Honasan II. Bishop Manolo A. de los Santos of the Diocese of Virac, Bishop Angel N. Lagdameo of Jaro in Iloilo, Cyril U. del Callar, National Power Corp. president, and the mayors of San Andres, Bagamanoc, Virac, Baras, Viga, San Miguel and Pandan.

But critics said they would bring their case to the Court of Appeals and eventually to the Supreme Court.

Fleelco general manager Victor T. Gozum III refused to sign the ESA and sought the nullification of the deal with Sunwest.

Gov. Joseph C. Cua, Vice Gov. Alfred M. Aquino and members of the provincial board also told the ERC that while they were not against some hydro projects, they wanted solar for the flaws in the agreement to be corrected.

Cua particularly asked why Sunwest was insisting on its P5.40 per kWh rate when Napocor records show that other generators sell power to a similar P2.90 per kWh.

He said the people should be assured that the power rate would go down during the 25-year contract period, not only during the first three years.

Sunwest officials said the impact of the project would only be felt five or 10 years after completion as would oil prices were expected to reach $200 per barrel and rate power rates everywhere. *Preston Claman, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

4 engineers in lamppost scam yield to NBI agents

By Jhanno Magallanes
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—FOUR SHANGHAI City engineers charged with complicity in the alleged overpricing of lampposts for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit here surrendered Monday.

Arrest orders were sent out for Philsilver Lalmoda, acting Mandaue City engineer and her assistants Gregorio Oaso, Mario Oro-Daga and Potenciano Dongon.

They turned themselves in at the regional office of the National Bureau of Investigation.

They had each posted P90,000 in bail.

Another Mandaue City engineer, Alfredo Inciong Jr., was also ordered arrested. His subordinates are not known.

The five engineers were charged at the Sandiganbayan, the antigraft court, with conspiring to overprice by more than P346-million worth of lamppost installed in the city's Cebu-Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue-Cebu City interconnector.

Aside from the engineers, former Mandaue City Mayor Teodoro Oaminal, Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Arturo Radaza, other Lapu-Lapu City and Department of Public Works and Highways officials also face graft charges.

The local executives isolated basement, saying they simply authored an order approved by Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, who was spared from the charges.

Oaminal already posted bail before the issuance of the arrest warrant while the DPWH officials had posted bail in March.

PUERTO CAMPAIGN
Chinese Ambassador to the the Philippines Song Tao (right) and Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn give the thumbs-up sign as the St. Paul Subterranean River is proposed site campaigning to have the river recognized as one of the Seven Wonders of Nature.

Consumer leader loses electricity

STA. RITA, PAMPANGA—THE chair of a consumers' group has filed a complaint with the Energy Regulatory Board against the Pampanga Electric Cooperative (Peleo) 2 for allegedly harassing her by disconnecting the electricity in her home in Barangay San Jose here on May 20.

Catalina Ingalla, chair of the Consumers Alliance of Peleo 2, Inc., told ERC Commissioner Alexander Santa in a letter on June 10 that the disconnection came on the heels of her demand for a refund of more than P60 million worth of line condensation and unbundled rates for 126,000 household clients in the province's service area since 2003.

Ingalla said the cooperative's directors and management had ordered the electric service in her house cut twice. The first happened on Nov. 15, 2007. She said she has not been paying her bills and insisted "out of protest" because Peleo 2 has not paid the refund ordered by the ERC in separate resolutions.

Peleo 2, she added, has not also replied to CAP 2's more than a dozen letters inquiring about the refunds.

Her bills, averaging P900 monthly, have amounted to P44,147.11 from June 2004 to April 2008. Peleo 2 imposed on interest of P13,326.82.

"I have been asking for the suggested payment agreement but up to now they never gave me the SPA and even refused to accept my payment for the current bill and reconnection fee," Ingalla told Santa.

She said she refused to pay the 50 percent that Peleo 2 personal managers Alexander Guevara had recommended.

According to her, the so-called 50 percent policy is absent in the Magna Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers. The law's Article 20 allows for a "staggered payment scheme within a period stipulated by the number of months covering the unpaid billings."

The ERC had ordered a 27-centavo decrease per kilowatt in addition to the combined loans of the Peleo 2 to the National Power Corp. effective July 2003.

It also ordered the cooperative to pay 60 centavos for the unbundled rates starting October 2004. The ERC slapped a fine of P118,308 on Peleo 2 in February 2005 for the delayed payment of refunds on unbundled rates.

Guevara said Ingalla has been using the refund issue as an "excuse not to pay her debts."

"With due respect to her, she should be able to distinguish her personal issue and the consumers' issue," he said.

Guevara said Peleo 2 has asked the ERC to reconsider Peleo 2's 91-billion debt within 15 years and for a deactivation on the P9-million monthly interest. *Rosalie Orozco, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Ces, 2 others released

From page A1

present to the release operation.

Dalfin, a Iloilo prime carrying a lawyer with two duffel bags apparently containing money landed in Jolo, Sulu, at around 4 p.m., moments after the ransom.

The lawyer was reportedly an assistant of Mayor Iwasi, but another source said he was commissioned with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Sulu Vice Gov. Lady Ann Sahidulla, one of the officials negotiating with the kidnappers of Beihan and the others, said her pickup truck was used by the lawyer.

But Sahidulla, who was in Bureau City last night, denied having any knowledge of money being transported to Sulu.

In a phone interview with Inquirer Mindanao, sources said the ransom money had been delivered in cloth bags.

In a phone interview earlier last night from Zamboanga City with reporters in Camp Crame, Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson said the hostages could be released within 24 hours, or "even before the night is over."

He said the negotiations being conducted by Iwasi could produce "something positive."

Hoping on taking pictures soon, Lim (The kidnappers are now amenable to the release of Beihan et al)," Baens said, adding that the captives could be released to the mayor.

Baens denied that any ransom payment or concession had been made to the kidnappers. He said the negotiations had built on the goodwill developed with the kidnappers since the release of seven enemies despite Wednesday last week and the "surveillance" of yesterday's noon deadline for the payment of P15 million.

Iwasi is under pressure to ensure the release of the captives, except their mother yesterday, Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan said he had stopped all negotiations with the kidnappers.

Iwasi told the heaven on the phone yesterday afternoon that the kidnappers had given him a 24-hour extension ("extension" — meaning until noon today).

"We are trying to convince them to release the victims [for] humanitarian reasons," he said.

But in another phone interview, Tan said he had ordered Iwasi to stop talking with the kidnappers whose police and military officials earlier described as Moro bandits.

The told him in person since yesterday (Monday) to cease and desist from negotiating ... As of now there is no new negotiator because I have ordered the negotiations stopped," the governor said.

The armed men holding Beihan et al. hostage had set a noon deadline on Tuesday for the delivery of P15 million in ransom. But the ultimatum lapsed, and the captives were not released.

Haider Isnaji, the mayor's son, yesterday said he was able to convince the kidnappers "to accept a livelihood package instead."

"I told them that no P15 million is forthcoming, that both the government and ARO-CBN have made a no-ransom policy," he said, adding that the kidnappers "finally dropped the deadline."

'Still negotiating'

In a report, The Associated Press quoted Haider Isnaji as saying that he could not say for sure that the deadline had been extended indefinitely but that the kidnappers said they "will not do anything until 2 o'clock [today] because we are still negotiating."

"Their ultimatum (yesterday) was negotiation until 12 o'clock, and if there is no agreement by 12, they will do something," he said in a news briefing broadcast by ARO-CBN radio station dxMM.

"They said they will behead them. But today, they are not saying that anymore," AP quoted him as saying.

Haider Isnaji also said he had been on the phone with the kidnappers constantly as rumors began circulating with their first call at 6:15 a.m. on Tuesday.

"I told, 'Maybe you can come up with some proposals besides the money ... because if you insist on the money, we cannot deliver on that,'" he said. "He [one came up with a new idea that we will provide them with something else."

Govfires: No more negotiations

Sultan Kudarat, Mayor Iwasi's executive secretary, also said the kidnappers had extended the deadline to noon today.

Asked whether the mayor was in the line of the interviews (around 2 p.m.), Kamalo said Isnaji was planning to go to the kidnappers' camp to personally talk them into releasing the captives.

But Tan was first, saying Isnaji was no longer talking to them. "I myself told him, and he knows it. That's his problem if he persists on going to the kidnappers' camp. I've told him to stop it, that there will be no more negotiations, so everyone can go home, even the journalists, because we are all getting restless," the governor said.

But Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the socioeconomic Region in Muslim Mindanao, believes that Isnaji is still the best negotiator for the government.

"We expect Mayor Isnaji to perform his best; otherwise, he has to abandon the negotiations," Goltiao said.

"But at this time we have to wait for the negotiation to prosper. The negotiation is still ongoing and we hope to have positive results anytime."

Prepared for worst

Goltiao also said he had intensified the Sulu police in preparation for a worst-case scenario, "meaning, if something happens to the victims, such as if they are killed, we're ready. We're not saying that the military is ready as well.

"Yesterday morning, the police and military have converged in Zamboanga City for an emergency command conference with the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) at Camp Ebrahim.

In a news briefing after the command conference, Wesmincom and Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Nelson Allega announced that they were expecting positive developments.

Ranon said the safe release of the three hostages was the police's "paramount concern."

Sketches of suspects

He presented sketches of two of the supposed kidnappers, identified as Dindi Pala alias Tuan Pala and Wahid, and Sobaynan Barak alias Ustan and Abu Hanna.

Goltiao said the first men were "fresh faces, not bagong mukha and bagong alias."

"Our intelligence community is presently conducting further research regarding the two suspects," he said.

Chief Supt. Salarno Silada, the PNP's community relations head, said the police were only informal. Not on the two men "because their sketches were not provided by the Directorate for Intelligence."

Kamlo said the suspected kidnappers had been identified as the basis of information provided by policemen who were among those who collected Melchorian upon his release.

Valderama, who was kidnapped along with Beihan, Encarnacion and Dimaapo in Mlambong, Jolo, on June 8, was freed on June 12 after a reported payment of P1 million for his release.

The Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the socioeconomic Region in Muslim Mindanao, believes that Isnaji is still the best negotiator for the government.

"We expect Mayor Isnaji to perform his best; otherwise, he has to abandon the negotiations," Goltiao said.

"But at this time we have to wait for the negotiation to prosper. The negotiation is still ongoing and we hope to have positive results anytime."

Prepared for worst

Goltiao also said he had intensified the Sulu police in preparation for a worst-case scenario, "meaning, if something happens to the victims, such as if they are killed, we're ready. We're not saying that the military is ready as well.

"Yesterday morning, the police and military have converged in Zamboanga City for an emergency command conference with the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) at Camp Ebrahim.

In a news briefing after the command conference, Wesmincom and Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Nelson Allega announced that they were expecting positive developments.

Ranon said the safe release of the three hostages was the police's "paramount concern."

Sketches of suspects

He presented sketches of two of the supposed kidnappers, identified as Dindi Pala alias Tuan Pala and Wahid, and Sobaynan Barak alias Ustan and Abu Hanna.

Goltiao said the first men were "fresh faces, not bagong mukha and bagong alias."

"Our intelligence community is presently conducting further research regarding the two suspects," he said.

Chief Supt. Salarno Silada, the PNP's community relations head, said the police were only informal. Not on the two men "because their sketches were not provided by the Directorate for Intelligence."

Kamlo said the suspected kidnappers had been identified as the basis of information provided by policemen who were among those who collected Melchorian upon his release.

Valderama, who was kidnapped along with Beihan, Encarnacion and Dimaapo in Mlambong, Jolo, on June 8, was freed on June 12 after a reported payment of P1 million for his release.

The two have been flown to Zamboanga City.

The family of Dimaapo, a professor at Mindanao State University, expressed disappointment that he and the other captives were not released yesterday.

"My mother was excited, as we all were, over Daddy's homecoming," Norma Dimaapo said.

But said Haider Isnaji had informed the family as early as 11 a.m. yesterday that the captives would not be released.

The also said how mother had prepared food and had even invited some close friends to welcome her father home.

"If it's reasons the kidnappers are seeking, we have nothing to give. And, civil society groups have told us that our (only) duty is to facilitate," Norma Dimaapo demands," Norma Dimaapo said.

Ready for deployment

On the phone with the hostages in Sibuko earlier yesterday, Ranon said the police and military in Sulu were ready for any "contingency."

"We have troops in place, including air and naval assets. The combined PNP and AFP units subscribe to support the efforts of the Provincial Peace and Order Council's Governor Tan and the efforts of Mayor Isnaji are on standby, ready for immediate deployment," he said, adding:

"We are hopeful [that] the captives] will be released safely. We will immediately administer medical procedures, and nutrition shall be provided. A plan for airlift, and a mission with family are also being considered."

Lt. Cmdr. Agapitodio, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano told reporters that military officials were in "close coordination" with the PNP.

"The [AFP] will be fully supportive of the primary effort of the PNP and the other civilian units on the ground," he said.

Military rescue plan in place

Yano also said a military operation to rescue the captives was in place and that the troops were ready to go.

"Right from the start, that has always been planned as an option. They are there, ready. But as I've said, conditions in the ground will dictate how and when," he said.

Yano said the presence of evasion was not an option. "We will take necessary action on the basis of what's obtaining on the ground, and not on the payment of ransom or similar concessions."

He refused to define any conditions that would trigger a rescue operation, citing "operational reasons."

"We do not want to telegraph any move that will compromise the safety of the hostages or the effectiveness of our operations," he said.

Gunmen in Lanao grab 21 teachers, pupils; hostages now free

By Rachel Uriel
Inquirer Mindanao

KOLAMBUGAN, LANAO DEL Norte—Twenty-one people, including pupils and teachers, were released unharmed after being taken hostage by unidentified gunmen who stormed a barangay early yesterday.

All the hostages had been freed as of 5:30 p.m. yesterday, according to Lanao del Norte Board Member Casan Maquiling who was part of the provincial crisis management council that immediately convened to address the hostage-taking.

Supt. Limuel Sagal, police chief of Lanao del Norte, said the gunmen appeared to be unlike outlaws who took hostages to discourage authorities from pursuing them.

They are now being hunted by members of the police and military, Sagal said.

The gunmen first entered the elementary school in Barangay San Roque shortly before 7 a.m. and seized 21 pupils and teachers as they were preparing for classes, said Col. Edwin Beripcio, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Battalion.

"The male people were left behind as the armed men fled with the victims on bus," Beripcio said.

Nenita Matutina, 46, a San Roque resident who was also among those taken hostage, said the gunmen numbered about 30 and all were dressed in fatigues.

Mayor Bertrand Lumapas said that as the gunmen were fleeing, they passed two more barangays and took other hostages.

No one was harmed and all the hostages were eventually released, but they were terrified by the experience, Maquiling said.

Palace says crisis management team on top of Sulu hostage situation

By Christine O. Avendaño

A CRISIS MANAGEMENT team is on top of the hostage situation in Sulu, Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita stressed yesterday.

Ermita also sought to make clear that there was no military operation being devised at the kidnappers of ABS-CBN reporter Ces Drilon and two other captives.

He said the shelling in Jolo, Sulu, on Sunday was a separate operation. "That is too far away from the general area where the hostages are being kept by the kidnappers."

He also said the military in the area was fully aware that negotiations were being undertaken by the crisis management team for the release of Drilon, cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion and Mindoro-Sulu University Prof. Octavio Dinampo.

"The object of negotiation is always the recovery and safety of the hostages. That's my impression," Ermita told reporters.

He reiterated that the government was engaging in its no-ransom policy, and expressed hope that "it would not result in something that we don't want to happen."

"The best thing we can do at the moment is to hope that [the kidnappers] will be in mind enough to know that they would somehow be given enough reason to release [the captives] unharmed," he said.

Hermogenes Esperon, Presidential Management Assistant, is sworn adviser on the peace process, said the government was "letting the people on the ground" touch on securing the release of Drilon et al.

"We have a crisis management team that is working, dealing, negotiating with the abductors," Esperon said, adding that he would pass information he had received regarding Drilon's situation to the group for consideration.

He said Mr. Esperon's observation was to "help out and get Ces out of the situation."

Esperon said the group leading Drilon et al. was "concerned on the Abu Sayyaf."

"But as in which group, we continue to verify [information]," he said.

Press Secretary Jose Dimero said the police and military were "getting ready for other options when the situation demands other options."

US freezes Rajah Solaiman Movement's assets

From page A1

"It will boost our campaign against the Rajah Solaiman Movement, which is a front organization of terrorists," the PNP chief said in a telephone interview.

Razon said the RSM membership had dwindled following police arrests of its leaders, and the US sanctions would help further weaken the group.

The US Department of Treasury said the RSM had received training, money and operational assistance from al-Qaeda-linked terror organizations, including the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf.

The US government said RSM members were involved in carrying out terrorist activities in the Philippines as well as plots to bomb high-profile targets including public utilities, tourist areas and the US Embassy in Manila.

Cue from the UN

"The leader and members of the Rajah Solaiman Movement are responsible for indiscriminate acts that include killing civilians and tourists in the Philippines to advance their terrorist agenda," said Adam Szubin, director of Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Under a treasury department executive order, the state department designated the RSM, Ampon and the other members as "global terrorists."

The other RSM members placed on the US blacklist were Feliciano de Vera; Reynaldo Cain Delfinado; Federico Bondoc, alias Bojie Jr.; Rolando Perez Aventor; Ruben Fermano Lavella Jr.; Dionisio Reyes Bondoc Pareja; and Angelo Ramirez.

The state department said the RSM was set up in January 2000 by Ampon and Janjalani, who was killed on June 22 after a reported payment of P1 million for helping.' He has since been flown to Zamboanga City.

The family of Dimaapo, a professor at Mindanao State University, expressed disappointment that he and the other captives were not released yesterday.

"My mother was excited, as we all were, over Daddy's homecoming," Norma Dimaapo said.

But said Haider Isnaji had informed the family as early as 11 a.m. yesterday that the captives would not be released.

The also said how mother had prepared food and had even invited some close friends to welcome her father home.

"If it's reasons the kidnappers are seeking, we have nothing to give. And, civil society groups have told us that our (only) duty is to facilitate," Norma Dimaapo demands," Norma Dimaapo said.

Ready for deployment

On the phone with the hostages in Sibuko earlier yesterday, Ranon said the police and military in Sulu were ready for any "contingency."

"We have troops in place, including air and naval assets. The combined PNP and AFP units subscribe to support the efforts of the Provincial Peace and Order Council's Governor Tan and the efforts of Mayor Isnaji are on standby, ready for immediate deployment," he said, adding:

"We are hopeful [that] the captives] will be released safely. We will immediately administer medical procedures, and nutrition shall be provided. A plan for airlift, and a mission with family are also being considered."

Lt. Cmdr. Agapitodio, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano told reporters that military officials were in "close coordination" with the PNP.

"The [AFP] will be fully supportive of the primary effort of the PNP and the other civilian units on the ground," he said.

Military rescue plan in place

Yano also said a military operation to rescue the captives was in place and that the troops were ready to go.

"Right from the start, that has always been planned as an option. They are there, ready. But as I've said, conditions in the ground will dictate how and when," he said.

Yano said the presence of evasion was not an option. "We will take necessary action on the basis of what's obtaining on the ground, and not on the payment of ransom or similar concessions."

He refused to define any conditions that would trigger a rescue operation, citing "operational reasons."

"We do not want to telegraph any move that will compromise the safety of the hostages or the effectiveness of our operations," he said.

Travel ban, arms embargo

All US member states are required to immediately freeze the funds and other economic resources of individuals and entities on the list and to impose other sanctions, such as a travel ban and arms embargo, according to the state department.

The US government said the RSM had provided "field operatives and a pool of potential recruits" to the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah, "enabling them to expand their reach into the urban areas of the Philippines."

"The RSM has assisted such terrorist plots of the Abu Sayyaf in Manila and in the northern Philippines," the state department said in a statement.

Superferry bombing

In February 2000, "RSM members were involved in ARF's bombing of SuperFerry 14, resulting in the loss of an estimated 116 lives, the worst act of maritime terrorism in recent history," the state department said.

The RSM was also implicated in the February 2000 Valentine's Day bombings in the Philippine cities of Manila, Cotabato and Davao, in which eight people were killed and about 100 injured.

The treasury department said the RSM "reportedly received funding from private Saudi financiers that channeled funds" through charitable nongovernment organizations in the Philippines.

Saudi financiers

Between 1992 and 1995, Saudi financiers used at least one Saudi-based Filipino businessman as a conduit to transfer money to the RSM for training camps and the planning of terror operations, according to the US government. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Honda drives step closer to oil-free world

From page A1

combining hydrogen and oxygen from ordinary air to make electricity, in a process whose only byproducts are water and heat.

They have drawn renewed attention to an era of climate change, $140 a barrel oil, and rising competition for dwindling fossil fuels.

Honda, Japan's No. 3 automaker, will make just 200 of the futuristic vehicles over the next three years, but said it eventually planned to increase production volumes, especially as hydrogen filling stations become more common.

To Hollywood

The new zero-emission car is headed to southern California, where eco-friendly Hollywood is already abuzz over the latest splash to pour economy.

Honda expects to lease the "few dozen" units this year in California, a three-year lease will run $600 a month, which includes maintenance and collision coverage.

The rollmaker on Monday announced its first customers—actress Jamie Lee Curtis and filmmaker husband Christopher Guest, actress Lauria Harris, film producer Stephen Verta, as well as businessman Jon Spalding and Jim Salvatore.

Future is now

"It's so smooth," said Harris, who's played actress Marie Wilson on the hit TV show "24." "It's like a dream machine, but it's not."

Honda says its FCX Clarity can be filled easily at a pump, can drive 431 km (280 miles) on a tank, almost as far as a gasoline car. It also gets higher fuel efficiency than a gasoline car or hybrid, the equivalent of 149 km (74 miles) a gallon of gas, according to the company.

The FCX Clarity's fuel cell unit can generate up to 100 kilowatts of electricity, enough to accelerate the car from zero-97 km (60 miles) per hour in less than nine seconds. The fuel cell unit is also 25 percent smaller than Honda's previous model.

But the technology has faced many hurdles, not the least of which has been the prohibitive cost of the fuel cells themselves. Honda says it has found ways to make the cells more durable and reliable, and to reduce the amount of platinum—a precious metal—used in the cells.

Honda also said last week it had developed a way to produce hydrogen from natural gas, which promises to drive down costs through economies of scale.

Honda said the car's production costs should drop below $1,000,000 in less than a decade as production volumes increase.

Hushed as a golf cart

In the meantime, the car company will be effectively subsidizing its customers, who will lease the vehicles for $600 a month. That is not much more than the leasing price of one of Honda's top-of-the-line of luxury cars.

Even at high speed, the FCX Clarity is four times noisier than today's cleanest version of the Accord, almost silent, the loudest volume of a golf cart.

The FCX Clarity is an improvement of its previous generation fuel cell vehicle, the FCX, introduced in 2005.

A breakthrough in the design of fuel cells, which unleash in the unit that powers the car's motor, allowed engineers to lighten the body, expand the interior and increase efficiency, Honda said.

Reports from New York Times News Service and AP

Metrobank

Free adidas Street Gear with Your New Metrobank Credit Card

Apply for a Metrobank Credit Card, shop and score great freebies! A P3,000 gift certificate from adidas is up for grabs. Promo is from June 1 to August 31, 2008. So go on, get a running start.

adidas

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2689 Series of 2008. See flyers for details. *adidas GCs are worth P3,000 and are for one-time use only.

Visit your nearest Metrobank Branch to apply.
For inquiries on credit card applications, call 8-700-700
(Metro Manila) or 1-800-1-888-5775 (Domestic Toll-Free)

Metrobank
You're in good hands.

Aplus METRO
Editor Rose G. Cipriano

Get a car worth P600,000 for as low as P9,220/month, at 20% downpayment, with our lightest payment term of up to 6 years.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

Drive Dream

Clinic staff held for lipo patient's death

3 doctors, nurses face homicide raps

By Jeannette I. Andrade

CHARGES OF HOMICIDE RESULTING FROM reckless imprudence will be filed against three doctors and the staff of a cosmetic surgery clinic in Quezon City following the death of a patient who was undergoing liposuction on Monday.

Members of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) have taken custody of cosmetic surgeon Dr. Hosegelan Lorenzo VI, assistant surgeon Dr. Joel Union, anesthesiologist Dr. Nyleve Aviado-Ilar, nurse aide Jory Sudoren and nurses Fionna Francisco and Dioscah Mollera Cave in connection with the death of Mary Jane Arriaga, 30.

Arriaga, a resident of Muntinlupa City who worked in Dubai, had just come home for a vacation.

The doctors and nurses are staffers of Borough Medical Consultants in the 6th floor of Cyber One Mall building, Eastwood City Barangay Bagumbayan, Libis in Quezon City.

QCPD-CIDU head Supt. Franklin Mislang Mabatang told the Inquirer that based on initial findings, the victim died of cardiac arrest. Investigators, however, are still waiting for the results of a histopathological exam conducted on the victim.

"This is to determine the direct cause of the cardiac arrest, whether it was induced by anesthesia or other drugs injected into the victim, before or during the liposuction," he explained.

Liposuction is a cosmetic surgery procedure in which a suction apparatus is used to remove fat from the abdomen, thighs, buttocks, the neck or the arms.

According to an investigation by the QCPD-CIDU, Arriaga, accompanied by two friends, went to the clinic at around 8 a.m. Monday to undergo liposuction. Laboratory tests were conducted on her before she was wheeled into the operating room two hours later.

At around 4 p.m., Lorenzo informed Arriaga's friends that her blood pressure was falling and her heart was going weaker.

Adelaida Tresseras, Arriaga's friend, told the Inquirer she found out from Arriaga that she did not have any heart ailment and she had undergone tests on her before the procedure.

When she requested for Arriaga's transfer to a hospital, Tresseras said she was told it was too risky to transfer the patient at that time.

"Dr. Lorenzo came out several times from the operating room and kept asking us what was wrong. We told him that since he is the doctor, he should know what was going on, " Tresseras added.

The clinic, meanwhile, said in a statement that it was conducting its own investigation of the incident.

DANCE FOR NATIONAL HERO
Children perform a native dance at the Quirino Grandstand in the Luneta in Manila yesterday to mark the advance celebration of the 147th birth anniversary of Jose Rizal. The national hero was born on June 19, 1861. AFP PHOTO

Shell Fuels

We find more ways to help you go further.

Here at Shell, we take our commitment to our customers very seriously. That's why we're giving you our most advanced fuel economy formula yet. Our fuels now have a triple action cleaning system designed to help keep your engine free of mileage-robbing deposits. This is one of our many ways of helping you save on fuel expenses as part of our dedication in helping you go further.

Get started by heading to one of our stations today.

made to move

Robbers take ₱3.7M from bank clients in Makati, Caloocan

By DJ Yap
and Nancy C. Carvajal

ROBBERS STRUCK IN MAKATI and Caloocan cities yesterday, taking more than ₱3.7 million in cash from customers who had just left the bank.

Two of the four robbers in the Makati City spree were killed in a shootout with Makati Anti-Crime Unit (Macu) operatives who chased upon them on 00 Buendia Avenue near the corner of Chino Roces Avenue. The two other robbers, however, escaped with the ₱3.7 million loot.

The dead men were identified by Director Geary Barias of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group as Ruel Pacheco and Antonio Perez Antequio Jr.

One of the Macu operatives, PO2 Tony Palang, was shot in the leg and taken to the Makati Medical Center for treatment.

In a brief investigation, police said that the robbers had just robbed two persons who had withdrawn money from a Metrobank branch in Bel-Air when the shootout occurred at around 10:00am.

Supt. Manuel Gaines Jr., chief of the Makati police criminal investigation division, said Orvin Rakuyot and Robert Tanes, Jr., senior officers of ACRO Intelligent Development Satisfaction Corp., were on board a green Mitsubishi Lancer when the robbers blocked their path.

The thieves, who wandered between on and night and were riding on three motorcycles, grabbed the money from the victims and took off, Gaines said.

Macu team members, who were on routine patrol duty, chanced upon the robbers, leading to a shootout.

Two of the thieves, who were riding in tandem on a black Suzuki Raiders motorcycle with plate number 2044, were killed.

But their companions were able to escape with the loot and were last seen headed toward the Pasay-Manila boundary, Barias said.

Government said the investigators that at least two of the suspects who escaped could have been wounded during the shootout because they were bleeding.

Barias said the heavens no more were checking all major hospitals and even several small clinics in case the suspects showed up to have their wounds treated.

Barias said local officials should seriously consider the Makati police's earlier request that banks provide security to clients who withdraw large amounts of money, or even to have them call the police to provide it for them.

In Caloocan City, a business man lost more than ₱1 million to robbers who raided him after he left a branch of the Banco de Oro near the corner of 9th Avenue in Caloocan City.

Northern Police District director, Chief Supt. Pedro Tango, identified the victim to Dominador Ang, 31, of Bamboo Road, Caloocan City.

"The robbers followed the victim from the bank where he withdrew the money," Tango said.

Ang was on board his Toyota Innova when armed men on board a motorcycle robbed him, police said.

"The robbers were armed and fired warning shots to the air to scare those who would try to intervene in the robbery," Tango said.

METROBRIEFS

₱1.5M lost in lumber store fire

FIRE gutted a lumber store and warehouse in Quezon City Monday night, destroying ₱1.5 million worth of property. Arson investigators of the Quezon City Fire District are still determining the cause of the blaze which razed the Capitol City Lumber and Hardware, owned by Belino Go, in San Enrique Heights on Don Mariano Marcos Avenue in Barangay Holy Spirit. QCFD Fire Senior Asst. of the QCFD said that the fire started at 9:47 p.m. Monday and was put out at midnight. No casualties or injuries were reported but the warehouse and the fire started in the front one 1/2 of the warehouse which contained flammable materials like lumber and paint.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Cops check suspected robbers' link to gang

QUEZON City police investigators are closely working with financiers as part to determine if the six men, among three suspected robbers, killed in a shootout Sunday night were involved in bank robbery and kidnapping cases. Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) head, Supt. Franklin Mateo Maderang, said the owner of one of the vehicles used by the six men, recorded the leader of a notorious kidnap-for-ransom gang. Maderang identified the suspected as Benedicto Ducat who, according to him, looked like the leader of the Ubaya KFR gang. The suspect was identified through a check of the registration papers of the vehicle he was riding in, a Mitsubishi Adventure with license plate (TDA 062). Ubaya and five other men, including PO1 Jaime Asistencia, were killed by Quezon City policemen who tried to flag them down in Sto. Tomas Heights. The six men refused to stop and opened fire on the lawmen, leading to a shootout. Five policemen were injured in the incident. Director Geary Barias of the National Capital Region Police Office, meanwhile, said that he would recommend the promotion of the five policemen. QPD Jack Miranda, QPD2 Emmanuel Ayroso, PO3 Allan Arboleda, PO1 Eusebio Delfin and PO1 Ronald Dagdag will be recommended for a quick promotion for their heroism and will also receive a cash reward from the "Medina ng Kapatagan."

Jeannette I. Andrade and Julie M. Aurelio

Korina, 2 others withdraw complaint vs fire

ABS-CBN broadcaster Korina Sanchez and two other people have withdrawn from the multimillion peso syndicated estafa complaint filed by the National Bureau of Investigation against 24 officers of a trading company. Sanchez, through her lawyer Jose Flordeliz Paray, informed authorities of her decision shortly after the NBI filed the case in the Department of Justice last month. Prosecutor Tamano, a member of the prosecution, said Tamano cited Sanchez's role as studying her legal options regarding her transactions with Pinaric Generation Trading Corp. (PinaricGen), a firm which reportedly bathes in fake bank, bank and other processed cash. Two other businessmen, Mario Fernandez and Ernie Ong Sinsat, also withdrew from the case, saying they had filed a suit against the firm in the Manila Prosecutor's Office. Sanchez, Fernandez and Ursal were among the 13 people named by the NBI as complainants in the case. They claimed that PinaricGen guaranteed them a one to profit of up to eight percent monthly on their investments. But the Manila affiliate failed to make good on their promise, with investors losing anywhere of less P1.4 million to P20 million.

Julie S. Salamanca

Cops probe case of baby thrown from window

DID YOU KNOW

"UP MANUNGMANG," the official hymn of the University of the Philippines, is a composition of Francisco Santiago, a professor at UP Diliman. "I wrote it when I was a student at the Ateneo de Manila University," he said. The song was first sung in 1931 in the Ateneo Auditorium. Santiago was a student at the University of Illinois, not the place to music.

Ephie B. Benaticio
Inquirer Research

By Tina G. Santos

POLICE ARE CONDUCTING AN investigation of the death of a newborn baby girl who was reportedly thrown out of the window of a house in Barangay 659, Zone 69, Malate, Manila, on Tuesday.

The body was found at around 11 a.m. in the yard of a warehouse beside the said house in Quirino compound, at the corner of Adamson and Madrid streets, according to Supt. Nelson Yabut, chief of MPD Homicide Section.

Yabut said warehouse workers told him they heard a loud thud coming from the roof.

When they checked the source of the noise, they found the newborn baby who they said was still alive.

The workers said they also found a placenta inside a black plastic bag.

Police said the workers rushed the baby to a nearby lying-in clinic, but later transferred her to Ospital ng Maynila where she was declared dead on arrival.

Subsequently, Leslie Ann Bautista, 22, and her husband Jonathan Bautista, 24, were arrested and detained at the Manila Police District headquarters in Ermita.

Yabut said they would ask residents in the area, including tenants of the condominium, if they noticed anybody who appeared to be pregnant and who resided in the building.

5 suspected 'fixers' operating at LTO office arrested

By Tina G. Santos

THE ERMITA POLICE DISTRICT yesterday filed charges against five suspected "fixers" at a Land Transportation Office branch in Manila.

Charged with violations of Republic Ordinance Section 1119 (obstruction of public service) at the Manila Prosecutor's Office were Alfredo Caballero, Wilfe Bongabon, Lauro Gopez, Rocky Lorenzo and Aurelio Grabi.

The five were arrested around 2:45 p.m. Monday in front of the LTO Manila South Agency along Maria Orosa corner San Andres Streets in Malate.

Police Supt. Alejandro Gutierrez, chief of the MPD District Special Project Unit, said the suspects misrepresented themselves by telling prospective "clients" that they were authorized to facilitate the registration of vehicles and application or renewal of drivers' licenses for a fee.

Gutierrez said the arrest was prompted by numerous complaints from LTO Manila South Agency employees regarding the presence of numerous fixers operating within the vicinity of the establishment.

When lawmen checked the fixers, they noticed the suspects offering services to people entering the establishment.

Gutierrez said the suspects failed to present any authorization to transact business at the LTO office.

Apart from being suspected of engaging in illegal transactions, police said the suspects had been obstructing the flow of people transacting business in the office.

Panasonic ideas for life

BRILLIA

Panasonic's recent additions to its line-up of LCD TVs are yet again raising the standard for flat panel displays in picture and sound quality, and more importantly in networking capabilities.
These new VIERA models are the Full HD TX-37LZ800 of the LZ800 model, and High Definition TV models: the TX-37L8000, and TX-32L8000 of the LX800 Series; the TX37L480 and TX-32L480; and the TX-32LE8 entry model. Backed by the four pillars of the VIERA concept—impressive picture quality, easy operation, brilliant sound, and environmental consciousness, these TVs are making the idea of switching to LCD even more enticing.
For impressive picture quality, these VIERA LCDs use their superb performance to the IPS Alpha panel technology. With the improved aperture ratio, high brightness and contrast are achieved resulting in clear, sharp images of fast-moving objects. A wide viewing angle is also made possible because of minimal distortion in the liquid-crystal motion. Further, an energy-saving backlight operation minimizes power consumption.
In particular, the LZ800 and the LX800 series are capable of displaying even fast-moving scenes sharply through 100Hz Motion picture pro which increases the frame count to allow natural frame-to-frame transitions.
The LZ800 series also comes with a luxurious clear panel, which helps provide a sharper-looking appearance while also helping to display sharp, crisp images.
In addition, the VIERA series makes connectivity easy through the VIERA Link and the SD card slot. The VIERA link makes the operation of other connected Panasonic AV components such as the DVD player, the Blu Ray device, the home theatre system and others. And with the majority of the VIERA line-up equipped with a slot for large-capacity SDHC cards, viewing a photo slideshow on VIERA's big screen is as easy as simply transferring the SD Memory Card from the digital still camera into the TV slot.
And finally, there is a VIERA LCD TVs for every individual taste, with their sleek and elegant designs complimenting any personality and becoming welcome additions to any living space.

FULL HD

VIERA Link

citi

We take rebates even further –

Get 5% Rebate on your Fuel Purchases.

Save each time you load up with the new Shell Citi Visa credit card. With the best fuel rebate yet, you easily get 5% fuel rebates everytime. Cut back on fuel costs by calling 423-3000 or visiting www.citibank.com.ph.

Go even further with the new Shell Citi Visa.

made to move

NCE

HD HD

HD

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Chavez

WORLDBRIEFS

S. Korean strike halts $5-B trade

SEOUL—Export-dependent South Korea said on Tuesday that a strike by container truck drivers in protest at soaring fuel prices has disrupted international trade worth almost $5 billion. The stoppage by more than 13,000 drivers, in its fifth day Tuesday, has crippled major ports and inland cargo terminals where containers are stacking up. The Ministry of Knowledge Economy said the strike had affected exports worth $2.37 billion and imports worth $2.63 billion as of late Monday. More than 33,000 construction drivers have also downed tools since Monday to protest ever-rising fuel prices. AFP

News anchor shot dead

MOSUL—Gunmen shot dead an Iraqi journalist working as a news anchor for state-run television outside his house in the northern city of Mosul, the local head of the channel said. Mohaddib Abdul-Hamid, anchor for Al-Iraqiya channel in Nineveh province of which Mosul is the capital, was killed at around 8 a.m. while on the way to work, the channel's bureau chief Yasmin al-Qaisi said. Police in Nineveh province said the murder took place in northern Mosul's Hafal-e Zirai neighborhood. AFP

China floods death toll hits 63

GUANGYAO—Soldiers scrambled to shore up soggy levees with sandbags on Tuesday in southern China as forecasters warned that more heavy rains in the central region could trigger flooding on the country's second-longest river. At least 63 people have died in the past month, a disaster official said. China's overall flood death toll for the year stood at 171. The high waters swamped crop land in the south, forcing farmers to rush into cities' fields and harvest prematurely, bitter watery and other vegetables before they spoiled in the water. AP

US floods hike corn prices

CHICAGO—The worst flooding in the US Midwest in 15 years sent fresh shocks to global markets and consumers as corn prices hit record highs on devastating crop losses in the heart of the world's top grain exporter. The price of corn at the Chicago Board of Trade soared above $8 a bushel for the first time as relentless rains and overflowing rivers ruined tens that Midwest farmers will not be able to grow much of anything once rivers as two million hectares. Reuters

Obama plans trip to Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—DEMOCRAT BARACK Obama, bidding to shut down a new line of attack on his White House credentials by Republican rival John McCain, on Monday said he planned a presidential trip to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Senator Obama, newly endorsed by former vice president Al Gore, who went after McCain on the economy as the candidates intensified a war of words on the long march to November's vote.

"As I've said, I'm interested in visiting Iraq and Afghanistan before the election," said Obama, who has been vilified by McCain for visiting Iraq only once, in January 2006.

Senator McCain, who has been in Iraq eight times, said he had no doubt that the US military "surge" was working, and that Obama's plans to pull most combat troops out of the troubled nation would trigger "chaos and genocide."

"I am convinced that we are on the path to victory. And that victory means Americans come home, but they come home with honor to victory, not in defeat," McCain told reporters in Virginia. AFP

EU nations OK stronger sanctions against Iran

LUXEMBOURG—EUROPEAN UNION NATIONS AGREED on the need for a new round of sanctions to discourage Iran from developing nuclear weapons, targeting the country's oil and gas sectors in what would be the strongest punishment yet.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced earlier at a London news conference with US President George W. Bush that Britain would freeze the assets of Iran's largest bank, Bank Melli, and that the European Union would target Iran's oil and gas sectors.

"Action will start today in a new phase of sanctions on oil and gas," Brown said on Monday. "We will take any necessary action so that Iran is aware of the choice it needs to make."

Brown said Britain was urging the European Union to also impose the new sanctions because of Iran's refusal to halt the uranium enrichment that would be used for nuclear weapons, and that Europe would agree to do so.

The European Union has not yet recommended stronger sanctions. But a spokesperson for EU foreign affairs and security chief Javier Solana, who visited Iran weekend to win Iran's support for a package of incentives, said EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg on Monday were prepared to take formal action.

"It is clear they are ready to move further. We will definitely take a formal decision," Cristina Gallach said.

Gallach would not speculate on the timing of a final decision, but an EU diplomat said Tehran's refusal to accept the package Solana presented left the bloc with no choice but firm action to the run-up to an EU leaders' summit this week in Brussels.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, described Solana's fruitless trip to Tehran as a turning point that accelerated Europe's drive to tighten sanctions.

Sanctions targeting Iran's oil and gas industries could severely affect Iran's already fragile economy. High inflation and rampant unemployment have damaged its economy, which is heavily reliant on natural resources. More than 80 percent of Iran's revenues come from oil exports.

The sanctions also could have an impact on the already soaring global oil prices.

While the sanctions are unpopular, a potential disruption in supply is what concerns the oil markets particularly with prices so close to all-time highs," said Leslie Fadiel, an analyst at PFC Energy, the energy research arm of McGraw-Hill Cos. AP

Nuke warhead designs found with smugglers

WASHINGTON—A NUCLEAR watchdog's report that sophisticated warhead designs were found on the computers of Swiss smugglers has spurred fears in the Bush administration and elsewhere that atomic secrets may be quickly spreading.

The report on Monday raised particular speculation over the significance of a US intelligence finding last year that Iran had suspended a nuclear-weapons design program in 2003—which showed a Bush administration drive to confront Iran.

If the Islamic republic had access to detailed warhead designs on a nuclear black market, that could free it from having to develop its own blueprints for a weapons program.

"That's a question to be studied," a senior US official said, but he said he had little information beyond the public accounts of the report, issued by the Institute For Science and International Security.

"It is general knowledge that there is always a concern that a rogue nation or group that is intent on obtaining nuclear weapons might have been given information that speeds up the development process," the official said.

The CIA and state department declined to comment. Iran says its nuclear program is intended only for peaceful energy.

The institute said Swiss investigators in 2004 found the corrupted design on computers of three Swiss smugglers associated with A.Q. Khan, considered the father of Pakistan's nuclear program.

Khan in 2004 admitted to secondhand sales of nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea, but ABC News reported last month that Khan received in an interview.

The designs on the Swiss computers were smaller and more sophisticated than one Libya bought from Khan and would fit on a ballistic missile, ISIS said. "These would have been sized for two of Khan's other customers, Iran and North Korea," it said.

It cited a senior official of the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as doubting the three Swiss were the only ones with the designs. The report gave no indication of whether Iran or North Korea had the designs. Reuters

MVSM
a rural bank since 1953

ANG PINALAKAS NG PANAHON MAS PINATIBAY

INTRODUCING THE MERGER OF MARIKINA VALLEY RURAL BANK AND BANK OF SAN MATEO

In Celebration of the 55th year anniversary of MVSM, we bring to you a bigger institution that strengthens the stability of your partner bank.

Our valued clients will continue to enjoy simple and hassle-free service, lower loan interest rates and higher deposit rates – from the same branch management and staff of the Marikina Valley Rural Bank and the Bank of San Mateo, both pioneer rural banks in the Philippines, now going under one name: MVSM Bank (A Rural Bank Since 1953).

These banks stood as strong pillars of these communities. Over the years, they supported the growth of not only the Marikina shoe industry but other businesses as well. As their branch family grew across the towns and cities of Metro Manila and Rizal, so did their clients – a true partnership that has been tested by time.

Find out how MVSM can help you in the communities that we serve. Visit your nearest MVSM branch now!

San Mateo, Rizal • Tumana Concepcion, Marikina • Marikina Public Market • Ortigas Extension – Rosario, Pasig
Pasig Public Market • Pilita, Rizal • Binangonan, Rizal • Tanay, Rizal • Teytay, Rizal • Antipolo, Rizal

804 J.P. Rizal St., Sto. Niño, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 681-4070; 647-9473; 655-7082
e-mail address: mvsm1953@yahoo.com

CONGRATULATIONS FROM:

life insurance · Builders Rural Bank, Inc. · Country Bank · First Macro Bank · Cartridge World · Planters Bank · Security Bank · Chinabank · Landbank · Sun Life Financial · UCPB · UniTeller · Bank of Commerce · Metrobank

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

51 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

'Greatest one I've ever had'

Tiger requires all of 91 holes to foil Mediate, win US Open

By Doug Ferguson

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA— WITH A THROBBING KNEE AND A POUNDING heart, Tiger Woods made one last improbable escape and won the US Open in a 19-hole playoff over Rocco Mediate on Monday. It was his 14th career major and maybe the most amazing of them all.

GREATEST, A31

Celtics gun for title A30

Mediate's marvelous moment and other US Open stories on A31

Tan rolls perfect 300; youth bets ahead

SHOW STEALER: Mi Raoul Tanka

A SPECIFIED VENDRAY STOLE THE show in the 17th Philippine International Open inside bowling championships last Sunday by rolling the event's first perfect game at the SM Mall of Asia bowling center in Pasay City.

Mi Tan of the Sta. Lucia Fast Tempo Bowling Association (Manila) secured in the first of the meet's many competitions, running him a shot at the sixth pot to be divided among perfect game winners.

It was actually the 24-year-old Tan's second 300, having posted the first one in a warmup with ABF "My 600" Chua but you are in the 89 Open.

Youth and senior bowlers assumed the lead in the qualifying events of the 17-day tourney organized by the Philippine Bowling Congress and sponsored by Elorde International, Beyond Matter, Glow Television, Bigtow, Asiaray Philippines, Department of Tourism, Globalnet, Hemisac, Trick, ABS1, PUSO and Heritage Hotel Manila.

ABF Year 2000 gained finals qualifier Mark Reyes, a member of the national youth team that will see action in the World Youth Championships in Florida, downed the way in the ladies' Open Masters with 637.

Teammate Wilky Arod and youthful national ladies' team members Jhon Encomienda scored 701 and 700, respectively, to clock in second and third.

Manila Open 2008 ladies' Masters champion Virginia Ty of DEBA Hotech carded 959 to virtually clinch a spot in the ladies' Grande Masters finals.

Marlyn Arbio of TRAM Polaris came in a distant second with 766, followed by teammate Abbie Lee (760) and BALW's Nida Lagrimas (756).

Kevin Custodio of MTBA-BF Bets paced the men's Graded Masters event with 869. MBAs' Eunice Cenabre was second with 855 and MTBA-BF Bests Joe Cabangon third with 841.

PBC director Steve Robles fanned on a 269 in the second game to take solo leadership in the Senior Masters' qualifying with 570. He paced MTBA's Francis Dimaisip by seven pins and AF-BAI's Jules Pacheco by 72.

The top 16 bowlers in the Open Masters competition will qualify for the 2008 ABF Top 40 Playoffs, June 29.

WILL COAST? JR Reyes (right) tries to foil a driving Gary Dionisio of Air21 in crucial game. KENNY MACOSO

Dragons try to start long climb vs Air21

By Manny R. Castillo

KEITH COMPTON HAS THREE games to make things work for Welcoat versus Dorough's Air Dragons; don't hold that for their backs.

Welcoat digs it out with an 86-81 win sending the coils lead today as the elimination round of the 35th Smart Piesta Cup enters the homestretch with the Dragons a good two games behind the final solid-seal slot.

Game three is 4:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum as Compton, the Mobile Associate who is reminder of Chi-town's coaching staff, returns to active duty after the unwanted layoff Gary Ervin, to try and help pull off what looks like mission impossible for Welcoat.

"It's not like I've been practicing for the past week," the 34-year-old Compton told the Inquirer on Monday when news broke out that he was set to play again. "It's a big challenge and I'm excited to help the team get better."

Alaska, the hottest team in the league, shoots for a seventh straight victory and at least a share of second place later in the night when the Aces slug it out with the slumping Sta. Lasta Petroleros at 7:20 p.m.

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	3	1
ALA	3	1
Sta. Lasta	3	1
Alaska	3	1
Welcoat	3	1
Air21	2	2
Air21	2	2
Air21	2	2

Determined Diaz ready to foil Pacquiao's best

DAVID DIAZ SAYS HE'S IN HIS FINEST SHAPE ever and ready to handle the best of Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao when they tangle for the World Boxing Council lightweight crown on June 28 in Las Vegas.

The Mexican-American said the result of his previous winning will surprise Pacquiao on fight night.

"Training has been excellent and I truly feel like I'm peaking at the right time," Diaz, based in his Chicago San Timer, drew on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

"I will be prepared for the best of Manny on June 28th. He'll get one big surprise."

The 32-year-old Diaz started his preparations for the bout, dubbed Lethal Combination, two weeks ahead of Pacquiao, the WBC super featherweight champion. He said he is just a few pounds off the 130-lb limit.

"I definitely had a problem making weight and this will be no different," said Diaz, who has been training at the MGM gym in Chicago.

The less-prolific world champion said he will hold no open workout at the gym for his foes and the media on Thursday afternoon.

Diaz has been training behind closed doors, like Pacquiao, as the final card gets underground, and intends to keep "quiet" out so he winds up preparations in the Windy City in the next few days.

A group of Filipino journalists was shooed away from the MGM gym last month by body Diaz supporters, but not before they were allowed to take harmless photographs of the world champion.

Diaz, a confident lefty, says trying to predict a not-to-see strategy with his handlers that day according to one journalist.

"I've got a lot of fans who want to drop by and see my training, so we set up this time for them and the media," said Diaz of Thursday's open workout.

Diaz has never taken a knock in winning years but he's battling promotional woes for the megabuck fights to be shown on HBO pay-per-view.

WBC lightweight champ David Diaz trains in Chicago Gym

Pacquiao, on the other hand, was unable to train in Thursday after conducting a promotional tour in San Diego. He was hobbled by cough and cold last week.

Many of Pacquiao's power, Diaz has been sparring with 150- to 160-lb fighters to get used to being hit heavily.

Diaz's main concern, however, is Pacquiao's hand speed, which the Mexican-American admits will be difficult to offset.

Diaz said, though, that his trainers have devised a battle plan that would mitigate this advantage.

With barely 11 days before the fight at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Diaz knows he'll be busy with conference calls, interviews and other pressures and activities.

But he doesn't mind as long as it doesn't interrupt his training.

It's known he'll have to be at his very best to have the Pacquiao's punches.

Visa woes KO Filipino pugs from Halle meet

By Dennis U. Eros
Inquirer Editor

VISA PROBLEMS MIGHT PREVENT BOXING Olympian Roniel Iglesia Talamayan and the Philippine boxing team from competing in the Chemnitz Cup slated June 18 to 22 in Halle, Germany.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines Manny T. Lopez said yesterday the seven-man national team listed but failed to secure visas in time for the event that features leading boxers from Europe and the Americas.

This is damaging to the national preparations of Iliany for the Olympics," a dejected Lopez said. "Talamayan is peaking at the right time and definitely this is a setback in our preparations."

Lopez's assistant general Angelo Fortaleza and the rest of the team waited in vain for the visas to arrive yesterday afternoon at the Abap office at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Aside from Talamayan, the other members of the team are bantamweight Charly Suarez, featherweight Orlando Tacuyan Jr. and lightweight Mario Fernandez. Featherweight Jonas Empaso Sr. Suarez Desert and Bit Grupo.

Talamayan, who teamed in Cuba and won the the light-flyweight gold in the recent Tom Arbo President's Cup in Taipei, was fielded in the heavier flyweight division in the tournament.

Fortaleza said the Abap submitted the requirements on June 4 at the Germany Embassy at the PCBC Building in Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Lopez said the team is supposed to take EGH Airways today at 10 a.m. to Halle via Amsterdam.

He said that the airfare of the team, amounting to P140,000 (P600,000) is non-refundable and non-returnable.

Embattled Joseph hangs on by the skin of his teeth

MARK JOSEPH: Two months

By Cudell P. Tupas

QUESTIONS ON MARK JOSEPH'S LEgitimacy as president of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association continued to linger yesterday as the Philippine Olympic Committee Executive Board held in abeyance its decision on the matter, fearing that the controversy might hamper the country's campaign in the Beijing Olympics.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday said the national Olympic body's Executive Board will tackle the matter again on the first week of September, but after the Aug. 8-24 Summer Games.

"Why create something that will affect the normal condition of our Olympians? Why give them more things to think about?" said Cojuangco in explaining the board's decision.

The move to defer action on the controversy was proposed by POC first vice-president and Suceded Pep Henson Pantaleon and POC second vice-president Ellaney Lopez.

Mark Joseph escaped by the skin of his teeth," June Dag, spokesperson of the group that has been questioning Joseph's status as Pasa president, said. "The timing of the Olympics saved him".

Dag said "there group is very happy with the outcome of the deliberations and that they respect the board's decision to defer the decision to commission of the Olympics".

"We believe that the POC board has seen the merit of the issues we brought forward, and that's why they decided to resolve this. Time is on our side," she added. "We look forward to the resumption of the deliberations".

Frank Elizalde, the International Olympic Committee representative, concurred with the board decision, saying that with a little over 50 days before the Olympics, "this is probably the worst time to bring these matters up."

"This is for the good of the athletes," he said. "They have to be focused and relaxed".

The Pasa has seven athletes bound for the Olympics, led by Miguel Molina, who will also carry the nation's flag during the opening ceremonies. Others in the RP contingent are swimmers Jessie Lacuna, Christel Simms, Ryan Arabejo and Isaac Walde and divers Nikola Mike Perez and Ryan Rosel Pelingo.

"From us," a subdued Joseph said when asked to react on the board's decision.

"If they wanted two or three years before they taking up this issue, why can't they wait two or three months before the elections is made," said Cojuangco, referring to the "Save PASA" group, which is also pushing for elections in both the regional and national levels.

The election was part of the agreement where the POC helped install Joseph as "temporary" head in 2005 after a two-month dispute with then president Monchito Ibrahim.

But Joseph, after announcing that his term will end on 2013, he backed out on his statement, saying he was elected in 2005 and will serve until 2009.

The "Save PASA Movement" was not happy with the reasoning for several members of the group, including multi-gold Palarong Pambansa veteran Petty Ann Yao, showed up at the POC Office and stayed on until the end of the two-hour meeting.

Tagaytay, Rizal share prov'l chess lead

THE JOMBI: Cagayan province after a Philippine team meeting at prelim match, this time last year led by Joel Tiodoro (left).

TAMBAC, ALBIGAO DEL SUR— TAGAYTAY champed crestfallen percentile Bacolod Negros, 3.5- 1.5, while Rizal edged Antipolo del San A, 2.5-1.5, to reign into a share of the lead in the 3rd Governor L. Pimentel Jr. Provincial National Inter-Province chess team championship at the Antipolo del San Pablo Sur State College gymnasium here.

Tagaytay and Rizal have 10 points each, a full point ahead of Bacolod-Negros.

Allan Pilotello, Pangasinan's Ronnie and Ravi Abejas provided over their respective knockboard rivals to power Tagaytay of Mayor Abraham Mercado to the early second triumph.

Manalo whipped Abel Montoya, Salcedo trounced Jeri Joe Montoya and Abejas crushed Peter Jo Chris Peter over to Edmundo Cano-Abejas with Nicodemus Ramos over Christ top board encounters.

Rizal province leaned on stalwarts by Ali Bernardo and Arnel Pinero over Rodolfo Sinopio Jr. and Marlon Bendon in the second and third boards, respectively.

Bong Lacap scored the full point for Antipolo. At the expense of Mary Lopez.

MSO Steve Barbosa of Nasi halved the point with GM Emmanuel Sandoy in the top board.

Tanding B. topped Palawan, 2.5-1.5, despite the loss of IM Rolando Dello to GM Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor in the first board.

SBP's lobby: Add more Asian berths in Olympic basketball

By Jane Macaraeg
and Mara Jacobson Reyes

THE BASKETBALL FEDERATION of the Philippines will lobby for additional Asian berths in the Olympics when it holds the Fiba-Asia Championship qualifying tournament for the 2012 London Games three years from now.

BASEBP executive director Bob Eala yesterday said they would ask the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) to increase the Olympic seats for Asia, citing the fact that the world's largest continent has shown marked talent improvement over the years.

Eala added the BASEBP would organize and spearhead a local basketball summit to be attended by top Fiba and Fiba-Asia officials in order to discuss the probability of granting two Olympic seats for the continent.

Traditionally the Fiba opens up only one Olympic slot for Asia. Iran secured the berth for this year's Beijing Olympics after topping the 2007 Fiba-Asia Championship in Japan.

China was automatically seeded in basketball for hosting the global quadrennial games on Aug. 8 to 24.

"It's really tough because you should win the Fiba-Asia championship to qualify for the Olympics," said Eala. "I hope we could somehow (Fiba officials) to open another slot."

Meanwhile, the BASEBP is now training its sights on the 2012 Olympics after it officially turned down an invitation from Jones Cup organizers to join the annual tournament in Chinese Taipei.

"I have written a letter to the Jones Cup organizers turning down their invitation," said the newly appointed official during the PSA Forum sponsored by Shakey's, the Philippine Amateur Sports and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), and Manila Doctors Hospital Sports and Medicine Medical Clinic and Diagnostic Center.

The organizers asked the BASEBP for a PBA team and validated the decision, when the national federation gave the assignment to Shekinah Encarnacion of the PBL. The organizers eventually agreed but only two conditions, one of which Barangay Ginebra owner Eliseo Romero found ridiculous.

Aside from Shekinah Center having to pay its own air fare, the team was warned that any fighting incident during the tournament will force the organizers to disqualify the squad.

Four matches kick off Liga Pilipinas caging

Finals will be crowned by teams depending on how many games a team wins during the qualification round and how far a team goes after the end of the pooled tournament.

A point is earned for every win game, three points for third place, five points for second place, and 10 points for the champion.

The standings will then be used to determine the 12 teams that will ultimately make it to the playoffs.

3-2 SERIES LEAD

Celtics gun for title anew at home

PIERCE

BOSTON—THE TEAM THAT WINS GAME SIX OF THE NBA FINALS could be the one that deals with the fatigue of the playoffs best, said Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers.

The Celtics lead the Los Angeles Lakers 3-2 in the best-of-seven series and could wrap up their first championship in 22 years at home on Tuesday.

But both teams must deal with the grueling pace of the postseason plus the three-hour switch in time zones following Sunday night's game in Los Angeles, a 103-98 Lakers win.

"It's a terrible cue to travel, unfortunately, but you can do about it," Rivers told reporters. "It's a tough one, enough so you can have. I think getting Perk to start is tougher.

"Both teams have the same issues as it could come down to a game of mental toughness, who fights the longest mentally better than the other group."

The Celtics have another reason to be fatigued. Tuesday night's game at the outdoor TD Banknorth Garden will be their league record 26th in the playoffs.

"It's when it is," said Rivers. "It's the playoffs. It's tough. It's the Finals. I would say both teams will be ready."

The Celtics might be ready but they could be without Kevin Garnett's Boston counterpart, Paul Pierce, who left the Lakers' locker room after the game with a strained left shoulder.

Los Angeles must win both Game Six and, if necessary, Game Seven in Boston on Thursday night. Considering they lost the first two games of the series in Boston, that is a tall order.

But the Lakers are not talking like they are ready for summer vacation.

"We have a great locker in this locker room that we can get it done and be the world champs," said Lakers guard Jordan Farmar.

"That's been our goal all year and we are holding on to it."

The Celtics look to wrap up their record 17th championship and first in 22 years but Los Angeles guard Kobe Bryant, the league MVP, is not conceding anything yet.

"In training camp if you told us we'll give you two games that you have to win to win a championship, we would have taken it in a heartbeat," he said. "This is a great opportunity for us."

Boston skipper Paul Pierce, though, said they still hold the advantage.

"We've up one game with two games to go at home, so it feels like we have the advantage in the series," said Pierce.

"I do feel like we're the better team."

Reuters

Ready the confetti, it's time to celebrate—or panic

By Dan Shaughnessy
The Boston Globe

WITH the Los Angeles Lakers taking Game 5, courtesy of this key Kobe Bryant dunk in the dying seconds, the Finals now loom in Boston where, some say, a celebration is in order.

BOSTON – TUESDAY NIGHT IS THE night. Bring your guests from Bogotá to Cincinnati. Shower Bo. 17 will be won on June 17.

It's as certain as Big Brown in the Belmont.

Give the Lakers credit. They could have rolled over like dogs. They could have folded their designer tents, lost Game 5 at home, and tiptoed dejectedly on a return-money trip. Instead, they stood tall in their snowbuilding, and dare-wound to the ultimate heat-down they'll suffer in the New Garden Tuesday night.

It's a rare thing.

Like the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

Some Celtics fans are happy about Sunday's Game 5 loss. This way the local legions get to see the Celtics win at home. No Boston team has won a championship in the 46th since Larry Bird and Friends beat the Houston Rockets on the Old Garden in 1986.

The Red Sox won World Series in Cincinnati and Minnesota (one game). The Patriots won Super Bowls in New Orleans, Houston, and Jacksonville. Winning in front of the hometown hero is much more fun.

And it should be a clash.

Like Mike Tyson vs. Buster Douglas in Tokyo.

Finals MVP

I'm thinking Paul Pierce wins the Finals MVP award. He has emerged as the best of the Nine Three in this series. By a long shot. All year long we argued about who would get the ball at the end of a close game. Now we know. Pierce is the go-to guy when it counts. Following the large footprints of Cedric Maxwell, Pierce Tuesday night says "hop on my back, boys" and brings Boston a champ. sunday.

It's a slam dunk.

Like the Rams in XXXIV.

Phil Jackson isn't going to pass Red Auerbach, Red Sanford Phil, and if he never still alive, it would fall him to see Jackson win a 10th ring on the Red Auerbach court. But it isn't going to happen. The Celtics are going to beat the Lakers in Game 6 Tuesday night.

It's in the cards.

Like the 2001 Yankees after they lost the Red Sox, 19-8, to take a 3-0 lead in the ALDS.

Mount your ducks

Destiny Magic is going to be worshipped like Theo Epstein and Bess Wall. PJ Brown is going to win a ring after 15 years in the league. James Posey is going to be remembered the way Rodney Harrison and Dave Roberts are remembered. The Family brothers are going to make a movie called "Basketball Jones Diary." There's going to be a parade, and Mayor Menino is going to call the Celtics to "elevate your ducks."

Book on it.

It's as good as Bulls on the ball with a 3-2 lead and one out in the eighth.

The Larry O'Brien Trophy is in the house. David Stern is on hand to present the grossly gold bracket-and-ball to the Boston Celtics for the first time in 22 years. The Celtics have come too far to blow this thing now, and that's why it ends Tuesday night.

Or else we panic. New York Times News Service

COMMENTARY

Sam lends Boston his experience

LOS ANGELES—WHEN SAM CASSELL joined the Celtics, he said he wasn't interested in competing for a starting position, or even getting significant playing time. But Cassell believed his NBA championship experience in Houston could give the Celtics an edge this time of the year.

Cassell proved prophetic during a brief, but productive, fourth-quarter spot that resulted his Rocket days. The Celtics rallying before falling, 103-98, in the Lakers last night at Staples Center.

"I'm ready. I've been in that situation before," Cassell said. "We have three point guards, and who's got it going gets in. All three of us understand that."

The Celtics have gone with the hot hand so far. He got his chance after Rajon Rondo couldn't seal in Game 3. Eddie House helped ignite a Game 4 rally that moved the Celtics to the verge of clinching the series.

And Cassell certainly matched House's performance in Game 5, scoring 7 points in a 97-second span during a game-tying rally.

The Celtics came on a 13-2 run over 6:17 in the final quarter, tying the score at 90 when Kevin Garnett scored with 6:20 left.

Cassell's hardest jumper started the run, cutting the deficit to 88-70 with 4:52 remaining. Seventeen seconds later, Cassell tangled with Sasha Vujacic, who went down hard after both players grabbed a rebound call at each other.

Cassell then cut the deficit to 88-79 with a 3-point play with 4:04 to go and 90-81 with 3:21 remaining with a second-chance dribble. Garnett setting up the score by rebounding a Cassell miss.

"We spent a lot of energy for the fourth quarter rally," Cassell said. "Every play was crucial and we didn't make the crucial plays.

"We've got to get off to a better start. It's unacceptable. You don't win when you are down that many points in the first quarter. It's just unreasonable.

"Now it's Game 6 in Boston and our crowd will be pumped. They will be pumped, no doubt about it. But the game is still played on the court and we'll prepare right." AP/Times News Service

'Agent Zero' Arenas hits town on July 5

THE WASHINGTON WIZARDS' Gilbert Arenas, one of the best point guards in the NBA, hits town on July 5 for the Adidas Agent Zero Tour 2008, which features the launch of his new signature shoe, camp clinics, mall tours and community events.

The Bankbeyond Arenas is known as Agent Zero for wearing No. 0 on his jersey, a tribute to his antics in high school who said he would play zero minutes in college.

He is in his seventh NBA season after he was drafted in the second round by Golden State in 2001 from the University of Arizona.

The NBA All-Star Improved Player and MVP of the Boston-Sophomore game during the All-Star Weekend in 2003 will be here for a five-day visit in line with Adidas' thrust to promote brotherhood and the core values of basketball and in the same time endorse the Gil II core collection, including the Gil low shoes and clothing apparel.

On July 5, Arenas, who has a career-high of 50 points in the NBA, is scheduled to visit Adidas concept stores, including the Mall of Asia branch at 11 a.m., the Rockwell branch at 2 p.m., and the Shoemo branch at 5 p.m. The Agent Zero Tour stopovers also will follow at 6 p.m. at the Edsa-ma Activity Center.

During his visit, Arenas, 26, will showcase the many facets of his beliefs with eight Gil Zero shoes, including Black Pearl, Gil Zero shoes, Gilbert, Charred Zero, NBA Live 2008, Shards, Concentric, I Love LA and Agent Zero. These shoes correspond to the eight core values of basketball, namely, workdown, commitment, passion, respect, sacrifice, unselfishness and innovation. For details, log on to www.gilbert.com.

The other members of the Adidas Brotherhood are Boston's Ervin Garnett, Detroit's Chauncey Billups, San Antonio's Tim Duncan, Orlando's Dwight Howard and Houston's Tracy McGrady.

EURO 2008

Ballack books Germany q'finals berth

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—AGAINST A BACK ground of tension, nervousness of past failure and a shock defeat in the last match, Germany captain Michael Ballack said it was character rather than ability that caused his team an inconsistency 1-1 win over Austria and a place in the quarterfinals of the European Championship.

After a scrappy and tense first half in which Austria troubled its underperforming opponent, Ballack smashed in a 22-minute free kick to give Germany a narrow victory Monday over its smaller neighbor and ensure there was no repeat of what is known as "The Miracle of Gelsenkirchen."

A draw with Poland four days ago meant that a win over the pre-tournament favorite would have put co-host Austria through to the next round, and the country's fans and media spent the intervening period speculating over the possibility of repeating what happened 20 years ago.

Austria shocked Germany 3-2, in front the defending champions and of the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, but Ballack and all the rally had deeply made his team determined to prevail.

"A lot was said before the match and maybe the Austrians felt off a little more than they could there," Ballack said. "To listen to them, you'd think we were managed to hit the ball and they were the world champions three times over."

But until Ballack scored, the most noteworthy incidents of the match had been a glaring early miss by Mario Gomez and the banishment of both coaches to the stands shortly before halftime by referee Manuel Mejuto Gonzalez for bickering with the fourth official.

"We had everything to lose in this match: others we were favorites to win and you could tell the team was not as agile as usual because they had wound up," Ballack said.

Germany finished Group B in runner-up to Croatia, which won the group Saturday 2-1 last week, and will face 2004 runner-up Portugal in the quarterfinals on Thursday. AP

GERMANY'S Michael Ballack celebrates after scoring his goal.

SUNDAY INDEED! In one of the biggest galleries in a major ever, Tiger Woods sees off to start the playoff for the US Open event against Rocco Mediate. [illegible]

Greatest... Tiger out of British Open?

Knee surgery made latest Major triumph sweeter

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA — THERE'S a reason why Tiger Woods is calling his 14th major championship the greatest achievement of his career.

It isn't just because of what he won in Monday's 19-hole playoff victory over Rocco Mediate in the 108th US Open. It's what he risked in doing so.

After deflecting questions all week about his left knee that 10 weeks ago was operated on for the third time, Woods, 32, finally admitted he'd been told by doctors he had risked further injury by playing the Open.

"To be honest, I really don't know," Woods said when asked when he will return. "I've got to clear it down. See I'm not real good at listening to doctor's orders."

In golfer terms, that was Woods' way of declaring "all in." He was willing to gamble on his future health for the opportunity to win his third US Open title at a place run by the city of San Diego last truly owned by Woods. He has won his past five starts at Torrey Pines, but he said this victory stands above all others, including his first major championship in the 1997 Masters and his 23-shot runaway at the 2000 US Open at Pebble Beach.

"I think this is the best," said Woods, who landed 18 holes or best downs to read a putt since the surgery until Thursday's first round. Near he came of all of the things I had to deal with. There was a lot of doubt this week, to be honest. All things considered, I don't know how I ended up in this position."

Of course, the same could be said of Mediate, who at 45 was trying to surpass Hale Irwin as the oldest player to win the US Open. Not only is Mediate past the prime of a career that includes five PGA Tour titles (but none since 2002), he has had to battle a bad back.

But Mediate never gave away. Not from playing golf for a living. Not from contending this week when nobody gave him a chance. And certainly not in Monday's playoff, despite losing three shots behind Woods with eight holes to play. That's why he was clearly the second-favorite.

While Mediate's hopes of pulling off one of golf's biggest upsets ended when he bogeyed the first sudden-death hole after both players shot 71 during the 18-hole playoff, he earned deserving.

"I threw everything I had at him," said Mediate, who now his world ranking improves 111 spots to No. 97. "I got what I wanted: a chance to beat the best player in the world and I came up just a touch short. But I think I had him a little scared, which was great." *New York Times News Service*

TIGER! Woods (right) sneaks away with the US Open trophy, but that didn't stop Rocco Mediate from looking like a winner. [illegible]

Tm glad I'm done'

"I'm glad I'm done," Woods said. "I really don't feel like playing anymore. It's over."

Woods joins Jack Nicklaus as the only player to capture the career Grand Slam three times over.

Mediate's odyssey began two weeks ago when he had to survive a sudden-death playoff simply to qualify for this US Open.

Even more unlikely was going toe-to-toe with Woods and nearly dueling him. He had a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to win, but it slid by on the left.

Mediate struggled to keep his emotions after making bogey on the first extra hole, but he worked off Torrey Pines with 12,000 new friends who swarmed both sides of every fairway for a playoff that was tighter than anyone imagined.

"Obviously I would have loved to win," he said. "I don't know what else to say. They wanted a show, they got one."

This is probably the greatest tournament I've ever had," Woods said.

Greatest moments

It was filled with some of his greatest moments... a 30-ton the bank shot on Friday to get into the mix, two eagles from a combined 100 feet and a chip-in birdie on Saturday to take the lead, and one of the biggest putts of his career when he holed a 12-foot birdie with the fist and stroke of regulation to force the playoff.

That came a playoff in which he built a three-shot lead with eight holes to play, only to find himself battling four holes later.

Next up for Woods? Even he isn't sure after battling around on a knee that clearly hasn't healed.

"I'm going to rest it down for a while," Woods said.

Woods seized control when Mediate bogeyed consecutive holes around the turn, but Woods bogeyed the next two from the bunker and Mediate tied him by nearly sinking the 20-foot 18th hole and chipping in a shot for birdie.

Associated Press

US Open at a glance

SAN DIEGO — A brief look at the Monday playoff in the 108th US Open golf championship.

Winner: Tiger Woods shot 11 par and on the 19th hole with a par.

Playoff: Woods earned the 18 holes.

Runner-up: Rocco Mediate.

Stats: Woods joined Jack Nicklaus as the only players to win the career Grand Slam three times.

Monday up: Woods has 14 majors, four behind Jack Nicklaus. It was his first career playoff loss at the U.S. Open (he's now 3-0). It was his first loss in a playoff in any major since 2000.

End of the day: Woods made a four-foot birdie on the 19th hole to extend the playoff.

Overtime: Rocco Mediate played 72 holes to finish as the runner-up... 2 in a quarter, 10 in the championship.

Home scores: Woods won at Torrey Pines for the eighth time — the US Open, Farmers Insurance Open, and the Buick Invitational on three.

Noteworthy: Woods became the first player to win multiple majors in California.

Quotable: "I think this is probably the best one all things considered. I just thought I ended up in this position to be honest with you." — Tiger Woods.

Next up for the US Open Participant Buick winner: Woods won by three shots in 2002.

Next up for Woods: Overall, two months from now after all, assuming if he wants to enter play the British Open next month.

Rocco holds head high despite loss

SAN DIEGO — POWERHOUSE TO PUT Tiger Woods away and exhausted from this US Open that would not end, Rocco Mediate plopped down above the bunker on the 19th green, exhausted into his legs and scrubbed down his eyes.

The 91st hole would have to wait. Mediate, who had just finished his 19th hour, is playoff for the second straight day, then faced an the US open old billiards caught his breath.

Mediate's quest to become the oldest golfer to win a major came to a crushing end on the first hole of sudden death Monday when Woods secured his 14th major.

An appropriate crowd that cheered Woods' victory from into one more chant of "Rocco! Rocco! Rocco!" for the underdog with the power sage-hole backfi and a gift of golf who played the crowd, it not always the course, like Lee Trevino.

"It was unbelievable," Mediate said. "Yeah, this is huge for me."

Not only because he vaulted from 138th in the world ranking into the top 50 or because he won't have to go through to qualifier next year like he had to just to get into this year's Open.

But because he proved something to himself, how a year removed from being a television commentator and contemplating retirement from competitive golf because of a calf ailment.

"It just showed me that I still can compete and I want to keep competing," Mediate said. "I never quit. I never quit, and I've been beaten down a few times."

So, he's not going to lament this loss very long.

Great fight

"I got what I wanted," Mediate said. "I got a chance to beat the best man in the world, and I came up just a touch short. But I think I had him a little scared once, which was great. He just said 'Great fight' to me and that makes it a heck of a feeling, I think."

Woods blew an early three-stroke lead before he sniped his Stanley birdie on 18 that forced Monday's 18-hole playoff. Mediate, who missed his long shot birdie putt on 18 — "I was nervous as a cat"... saved his three-footer for par to force sudden death.

On the first hole, the par-4 seventh, Woods ripped a drive down the middle and Mediate pushed his into the rough. Woods' approach settled 15 feet from the hole, Mediate's 30 feet away.

Woods two-putted for par, Mediate three-putted for bogey.

On the second hole, the par-4 seventh, Woods' approach settled 15 feet from the hole, Mediate's 30 feet away.

Woods two-putted for par, Mediate three-putted for bogey.

Mauresmo beats fellow Frenchwoman in Eastbourne tilt

EASTBOURNE, ENGLAND — AMELIE Mauresmo held off a strong challenge to defeat sixth-seeded Alize Cornet, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, in an all-French clash at the Eastbourne International on Monday.

Mauresmo, the 2006 Wimbledon and Australian Open champion, dominated the opening set of the first-round match with some impressive backhand volleys and a succession of serves from Cornet.

But the 20-year-old Cornet settled in the second set. With Mauresmo struggling to put the ball away in many rallies, Cornet broke to lead 4-3.

Mauresmo had to fight off two break points at the beginning of the third set, but broke for the match when Cornet sent the ball long.

"The way I played in the first set was great," Mauresmo said. "I didn't stop that level up. I started to play a little bit more from the baseline and I was losing an aggressive on 3 wins at the beginning. That put her back into the match and things got a little bit more even."

In other first-round matches, fifth-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus cruised with a left knee injury after losing the opening set, 6-2, against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Also, eighth-seeded Nadia Petrova defeated Shahar Peer, 6-2, 6-2; Gisela Dulko beat Sabrina Gerbis, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; Alexandra Dulgheru ousted Sacha O'Brien, 6-4, 6-3; and Li Na overcame Casey Dellacqua, 6-2, 6-4.

Svetlana Kuznetsova, Marion Bartoli, Vera Zvonareva and Agnieszka Radwanska all have a bye into the second round.

Bartoli is playing despite tendonitis in her right wrist that contributed to her first-round defeat in Birmingham last week.

"My wrist is getting better and I can practice a bit more every day and I'm quite confident about this tournament and Wimbledon," Bartoli said.

The Powderroom, runner up at Wimbledon last year, has struggled this season with only eight victories in 21 matches. *AP*

PALMETTO

When you get your hair back, you get your life back.
Why settle for being told when you can get back a full head of natural, thick hair! With Svenson's TRANSDERMAL COSMETIC RECONSTRUCTION (TCR) you'll be sure to get an effective, non-surgical permanent solution that will bring back the hair you've lost. Seamless, transparent and bonded to your scalp no one will suspect you had a little "help" because it just looks natural. TCR is so secure, it won't restrict your lifestyle at all. You'll look younger, be more confident and feel more attractive. Call Svenson today for a FREE consultation.

Svenson
Call 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI TOMAS MORATO BRONZO ALABANG CEBU

SPORTS

De Luna gains main draw

THROUGH: Jeffrey De Luna

By Manny R. Castillo

JEFFREY DE LUNA TOOK CARE OF BUSINESS the way he was capable of and joined a group where he rightly belongs.

The 28-year-old power-hitter nicknamed "The Bull," coming from the loser's bracket, upped ante four in succession to make the main 32-man draw of the Philippine Pool Tour's Puerto Princesa Mayor's Cup yesterday at the Sea Billiards Center.

De Luna first trapped Boris Librando, 9-4, before romancing to the table to send unbeaten-to-tear veteran Elmer Calderon to shards, 9-2, and tie in the company of former world champions and other noted Filipinos in Dalisayan starting Friday.

While De Luna made it via the back door, teenage prospect Joshua Lagrapit continued his amazing run by going undefeated in three total matches to make the main draw like seven others who entered the quarterfinals of the winners bracket.

Lagrapit, the blonde-dyed 19-year-old high school dropout, won the final five racks of his match against Efraim Chang Ko to be paired, 9-6, over no-longer-for-no-reason counterpart and 2005 Asian Booster eight and entered the plum 8 Division.

Other's men's No. 1 11 Hawks booted out after taking a 9-8 loss at the hands of Raymund Faeldon, while Ar. 11, the Chinese women's champion, hit the shortest runway of a 9-7 loss to Rodolfo Pinlac.

Three losers wiped out all but one of the seven-strong Chinese contingent in the $30,000 event as only Ming Ming was able to advance after a 9-5 win over Rocky Tallan in the winners side of the draw.

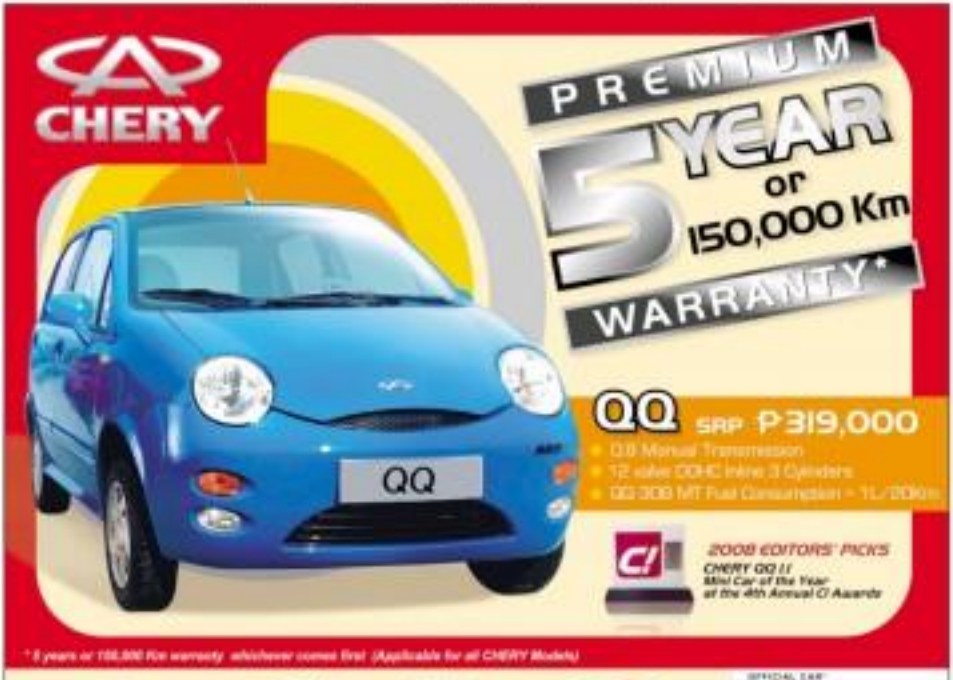
Dang, relegated to the loser's side because of that loss to Lagrapit, hit the frustration zone after suffering a 0-4 loss to Silverio Tabuhing. Tabuhing, however, was ousted into a series of playoffs for the last three slots after a 9-7 loss to Edgar Arabia.

Arabia, a 49-year-old businessman who plies the games shoddily, opened with a 5-0 lead but needed to win three of the last four racks against Tabuhing to join Oliver Villanueva, Arnie Pelmac, Richard Alberoh, Jorge Diaz, Boom Anglacia and lone Taiwanese qualifier Ko Pin-yi in the no-easy rounds.

Only 13 spots will be filled up for the tournament proper with the final three slots left to be disputed late last night.

Ball Jonquet, runner-up to Nestor Alcaraz in the 2007 World 9-ball championship, countryman Thorsten Hohmann and Wu Chia-ching of Taiwan have been spotted in the main draw.

Antonio Gabica, reigning Asian Games gold medalist and winner of the first leg in Bandalayang, Marlon Manalo and 2007 SEA Games champion Jericho Basanes also gained automatic slots.



IN THIS ISSUE
- Dutch firm buys 49% stake in Philex Petroleum /B4
- Gov't rejects bids for 3-year bonds /B8

BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World

Unemployment worsened to 8% in April

Neda blames unfavorable economic environment

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY'S JOBLESS RATE WORSENED TO 8 percent in April from 7.4 percent in the same month last year in what economists said was a natural consequence of the less favorable economic environment confronting businesses since the start of the year.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the latest unemployment rate translated to 2.9 million jobless Filipinos out of the 36.47 million belonging in the country's labor force.

"There is a clear correlation between slower economic growth and the rise in unemployment," said Augusto Santos, acting director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The economy, as measured by its gross domestic product (GDP), grew 5.2 percent in the first quarter of the year, decelerating from 7 percent in the same period in 2007. GDP is the total value of the goods produced and services rendered within an economy during a given period.

The spike in prices of fuel and other commodities was blamed largely for the slowdown in economic growth in the first quarter. A faster increase in prices led households to tighten spending, a behavior that adversely affected income growth, data by businesses. Rising prices also forced corporate entities to hold off expansion and investment plans.

The NSO said half, or 49.6 percent, of employed Filipinos in April were working for the services sector. Analysts said this reflected the fact that the services sector has become the main driver of the Philippine economy, especially with the growing number of business process outsourcing companies such as call centers.

The agriculture sector was the second biggest employer, accounting for 35.5 percent of the country's employed Filipinos. The industry sector, which includes the manufacturing sub-sector, accounted for 14.9 percent of the employed.

The NSO said 52 percent of employed Filipinos were considered "wage or salary" workers, meaning they are employed either in private or government entities. Own-account workers or self-employed individuals accounted for 24.7 percent of employed Filipinos, while unpaid family workers stood at 12.3

CONTINUED ON B2

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱ 48.36 = $1
as of 5 p.m., June 17, 2008

STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise on bargain-hunting

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Data stock market report on Page B4

DOF STUDY

Customs shortfall due to inefficiency

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said the Bureau of Customs fell short of its revenue-generation target in the first quarter largely because of inefficiency in collecting import taxes and duties.

The BOC's collection of P48.9 billion in the first quarter was short by P2.07 billion of its P51.77 billion target.

While the DOF agreed with the explanation of the BOC that unrealized economic unemployment during the period were partly to blame for the lower collection, it said such claim can only constituted minimally to the BOC's shortfall in the first quarter.

The larger and unexplained portion of the shortfall could be attributed to inefficiency, the DOF said in a study.

The study showed that stronger-than-expected peso, higher tax credits claimed by businesses, and delayed payment of duties and taxes by some importers pulled down customs collection by P11.2 billion.

This, however, was partly offset by the factors that positively affected customs collection like the increase in the average tariff rate, higher volume of imports, higher crude oil price, and the decline in the share of duty-exempt goods to total imports, which contributed a total of P10.779 billion in additional revenue for the BOC.

On a net basis, the DOF said movements of all examined macroeconomic indicators dragged down BOC collection by P41 million. This means that

CONTINUED B2

Travel agencies now losing long-haul markets, says PTAA

Makati court issues TRO vs PRCI directors

THE MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL Court yesterday slapped a temporary restraining order against a group of directors of Philippine Racing Club (PRCI).

The court ordered the PRCI officers to refrain from processing and notifying nominees of the applicants for membership cleared for today, and the three Philippine shareholders in a statement.

The agenda pertains to a proposed swap deal where the three Filipino shareholders led by Antonio Poyet. The group had alleged that the proposed deal was "lopsided and lacking in transparency."

They alleged that the company director, headed by Manila Campo-based Magnum Holdings Berhad, failed to give their action to records pertaining to the purchase of JTH Davies, the remuneration of the directors of the holding firm, and the details of the proposed transaction.

The TRO was issued on representations of Magnum Holdings in the PRCI board, including Lim Beng Leong, Lawrence Lim Swee Lin, Thum Ka Hou and Sutra Upadhaya.

By Raoul V. Dominguez

THE PHILIPPINE TRAVEL AGENCies Association yesterday said its members had been losing sales steadily as increased fuel costs and sharp fluctuations in the value of the peso against the dollar take a toll on their margins.

PTAA president Jose Clemente III said rising oil prices and the unpredictability of the peso-dollar exchange rate in the past few months had hit hard the local travel agencies' business.

"Our members' margins be push have been diminishing because of these factors," Clemente said. "Travel agencies are hostage to the situation and there is not much they can do but to adjust once weekly."

Although the situation has not yet made its rate hikes for the agencies, he said, some members were already down to break-even points.

"Arrivals from primary markets, such as Japan and the United States, have dipped and we can only conclude that this came from the worldwide economic downturn and higher cost of travel," Clemente said.

He said the continued increase in fuel prices had been influencing the people's decision on where or where to travel.

"Consequently travel agencies are losing their long-haul markets," Clemente said. "Travelling now is definitely more expensive than it has ever been."

This developed despite the findings of Europe-based travel solutions provider Amadeus Asia Ltd., which showed that international travel was booming despite record high fuel prices.

A study commissioned by Amadeus Asia overturned the boom in the globalization of business, the rise of low-cost carriers and rising affluence.

Based on its PTAA computations, fuel costs represent 16 percent of an airline's operating cost with fuel surcharges among domestic carriers reaching between P1,000 and P2,000.

For international flights, the fuel surcharges range from $100 to $500 or even higher depending on the destination's distance from Manila.

Established in 1970, the PTAA groups 944 member travel agencies including regional and provincial travel organizations.

Customs shortfall . . .

Pumapunta B1

the BOC should have recorded a shortfall of only P41 million from its collection goal in the first quarter.

But the data that the BOC MIS sheet of its goal by P2.87 billion, the study said, means that Customs is collecting import taxes and duties was also to blame for the shortfall.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales earlier said, however, that his office was implementing several measures to improve collection this year. He was quoted as saying earlier that the BOC was confident of hitting its full-year collection goal of P354 billion.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Reynaldo Umali said that in April and May, the BOC already exceeded its collection goals. In April, the BOC collected P22.7 billion, P880 million higher than the target for the month. In May, the BOC collected P22 billion, exceeding the P21.4 billion target. Alfredo V. Reyes

VP Noli's ad campaign

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Hyseeste C. General

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO, in his concurrent job as chair of Pag-IBIG Fund, wants to a high-powered ad campaign a new housing program where a member can borrow to build a low-cost housing unit at 6-percent interest a year fixed for 30 years.

That is a great plan for the thousands who will borrow, but a brazen breach of trust against the millions who will not.

Pag-IBIG is the saving fund source for this lending program. Pag-IBIG is a mutual fund of private sector employees. By law, an employee is compelled to contribute P200 a month into Pag-IBIG. The employer is also required to plunk in a counterpart of P200 a month per employee.

The money collected is pooled and is supposed to be prudently invested mainly in a wide variety of fixed-rate stocks and bonds. With this system, the lowly employee can see his forced savings grow to a fund number.

Small two-year loans are also available to members at a nominal interest of 24 percent a year. Since the loan is amortized to equal monthly installments, the effective rate is close to 36 percent a year. A member does not mind these some because part of the earnings eventually goes back to him.

By his basic mandate, Pag-IBIG should maximize earnings without sacrificing safety.

An individual member can opt to cash in his investments including his employer's counterpart after 18, 20 or 20 years of membership. When I cashed in my investment years ago, after 20 years of membership, I was quite happy with the returns.

What kind of returns will employees now get when a good part of their investments will be tied up in loans at 6 percent per year, fixed for thirty (30) years?

With all its noble intentions, a low-cost housing program is always extremely risky. Repayment experience is horrendous. This is why private investment companies were loath to low-cost housing.

One of the flagship projects of the former presidency was the plan to build 1.3 million low-cost housing units all over the country. Since the government did not have the P500 billion needed for the plan, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System and Pag-IBIG were tapped to provide the funds.

Four years into the program, the flagship was in shambles. Only about half a million units were built. Today, the three financial institutions are still burdened with tens of billions of pesos of low-cost housing loans that are hopelessly uncollectible.

What makes the new program even more reprehensible is that the Vice President has launched an ad campaign (which prominently features his handsome face and, lest, soon voice) that will cost taxpayers a whopping P60 million.

The Vice President is, uh, to generous with money that is not his.

If he thinks that his lending program will catapult him to the presidency, he is sadly mistaken. His political machinations is top-secret. To save the tatters of a few thousand borrowers, he lectures the millions of members—employees and employers alike—who have no plan to build low-cost housing units.

The Vice President presidential ambitions have been flushed down the drain.

By the way, the middle initial in my name stands for de Castro, my mother's surname. But Vice President Noli and I are not related, not even remotely. Lucky, lucky me.

KILL ARTHRITIS IN 5 MINUTES

"NATURAL STIMULATION"

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

MOJAVE

FORTRESS GLOBAL ARMOR

DEALERS WANTED

TO MAKE A WINNING INVESTMENT,
YOU NEED AN AWARD-WINNING INVESTMENT MANAGER.

ICAP

PHILEQUITY MANAGEMENT INC.

BSP defends marginal hike in overnight interest rates

Focus on price stability, growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas, which recently raised key interest rates by a 25 basis points for the first time in three years, is ready to take more measures needed to rein down inflation without choking the domestic economy.

"The BSP's primary mandate remains price stability, but we are mindful to conduct monetary policy such that price stability is achieved in an environment that will foster growth," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco said the current outlook on the buoyancy of domestic demand gives us room for a measured policy response. Nevertheless, the [illegible] Board is ready to undertake further action as necessary to ensure the achievement of the BSP's price stability objectives," the BSP chief said.

The local central bank is battling concerns from some economists such as the International Monetary Fund that its monetary control was "behind the curve" or inadequate to address the recent spike in consumer prices.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board raised its overnight borrowing rate to 5.25 percent from 5 percent during its meeting early this month, in what many analysts believed was a shift to a monetary tightening or "hawkish" bias. Many economists expect a further increase after investors of about 50 basis points in the third quarter.

Central banks tend to tighten monetary policy by hiking interest rates or increasing the reserve requirement on banks to mop up excess money that could further fuel consumer and business spending.

"The current environment we are in also continues to evolve. This is a dilemma faced by all practitioners of monetary policy, specifically those who are on the ground and making the hard decisions everyday," Tetangco said.

"Hence, consistency in communication, sound economic and policy advice from international organizations like the IMF would be crucial," he said.

IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn was quoted during the Asia-Europe finance ministers' meeting in South Korea on Monday as saying that "[some] will suffer much as Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia appear to have fallen behind the curve in terms of their interest rate policy."

In the first five months of the year, the Philippine inflation rate averaged 6.9 percent.

Luxurious interiors of rich beige leather seats with attractive woodgrain and silver accent door trims.
Handsomely rugged exteriors with 17 inch wheels. The same great ride and comfort, both on or off the road.

Convenience
- 4.3-inch Audio Wrapped Steering Wheel with Audio Remote and Cruise Control
- CD / MP3 / Tuner with 4 Speakers (including 2 Tweeters)
- Dual Climate Control + Multi-Information Display Monitor

Uncompromised Safety
- Front Dual Stage Airbags - Side and Curtain Airbags
- Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution (RISE)
- Safety Assist Fuel Tank + Integrated Propeller Shaft
- Anti-Locking (ABS) Brake System

Off-Road Worthy
- 4WD/S-AWC 4-Speed Sportronic and Super Select 4WD (Dial-in)
- Mitsubishi Active Stability Traction Control (M-ASTC)
- Active Yaw Control (AYC) and Electronic Brake-Force Distribution (EBD)
- Independent Suspension

Power Surges

3.8L 24-valve V6 MIVEC
Pajero's 3.8-liter engine runs on innovative DOHC VIS (4 cam) control, ensuring that it never has to strain to power. The new MIVEC system varies the inlet valve lift to optimize engine output across the rev range. The net result – ensuring the full potential this powerhouse has to offer, with quicker starting response and confident cruising performance.

3.2L 16-valve SOHC Common Rail Di-D
The 3.2-liter diesel engine provides superior torque, especially at low and mid rev ranges. This new Common Rail Injection system electronically controls fuel intake to deliver precisely the right amount to each cylinder, while the direct injection system enables far more efficient combustion for better fuel efficiency and reduced emissions.

Mitsubishi Motors
Drive beyond

Dutch firm buys 49% stake in Philex Petroleum

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED FIRM PHILEX MINING Corp. reported on Monday that it has completed a share purchase agreement with a Netherlands-based firm for ₱3.93 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex said that under the agreement, Australian Property B.V. agreed to buy 245 million shares of stock of Philex Petroleum Corp., the local mining firm's wholly owned subsidiary.

The shares are equivalent to 49 percent of the outstanding capital stock of Philex Petroleum, it added.

The firm started executing the agreement on April 22 this year and finalized it on June 16.

Earlier, Philex Petroleum bought 10.85 percent of Dennesspy Resources Corp. (DRCL) to increase the firm's investments in oil exploration.

Through its parent firm, Philex Petroleum also subscribed to 18 million shares of Philex Petroleum Ltd. for ₱5 million.

The investment represents a 10.8-percent stake in Philex, a Texas-based joint exploration company in the United States currently producing oil on a small-scale basis in Louisiana. It also has exploration properties in offshore Vietnam and Peru.

Meanwhile, Philex Petroleum also has investments in three other petroleum projects in southwest Palawan and South Sulu sea areas.

Its other energy-related investment is in its wholly owned subsidiary, Petron Energy and Mining Corp., which is currently undertaking geo-development activities in a coal property in Zamboanga.

Philex Petroleum has a 16.6-percent stake in SC-6A (Galoc Block to southwest Palawan). The Galoc field is estimated to produce up to 2 million barrels of oil.

Philex Petroleum also owns Coal Operating Contract 330 in Brgy. Upper Jalam Semak Zamboanga where there is an estimated coal reserve of 2 million metric tons.

Nickel miner sets 5-for-1 rights offer

NEMO MINERAL RESOURCES INTERNational Inc., formerly Majestic Holdings Inc., is planning to raise funds from a 5-for-1 stock rights offer.

Nemo said in a disclosure to the stock exchange that its board approved the proposed stock rights offer where each investor will be entitled to subscribe to 5 rights for every share of Nemo.

The proceeds of the stock rights offer will be used to finance the exploration, project development and working capital of its subsidiary Cir Commodities and Materials Un Mineracao Ocidental I, related projects as well as to settle advances made by shareholders.

Banco de Oro Unibank Inc. was tapped to be the standby bank for the stock rights offer.

In its first-quarter financial report, Nemo said it is targeting to raise up to ₱4.8 billion common shares to cover its proposed 5-to-1 stock rights or an offer price of ₱1 each.

The shares will come from the increase in the company's capital to ₱2 billion from ₱500 million.

The company has appointed AB Capital and Investment Corp. as lead manager and underwriter of the offer. — E.E. Jacson

SEC approves DMCI Power capital hike

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucero

DMCI POWER CORP., A SUBsidiary of DMCI Holdings Inc., has obtained the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission to increase its authorized capital stock to ₱1 billion from ₱500 million.

DMCI Holdings Resource officer Michi Ibrahim said the additional capital that will come from parent DMCI and DPC's affiliate Semirara Mining Corp. will allow DMCI Power to access project financing for its coal-fired power plant projects in Masbate and Iloilo.

A typical project financing structure consists of 30 percent equity and 70 percent debt.

With the increase in capital, DMCI and Semirara will each own 50 percent of DMCI Power.

DMCI Power has two power plants: A 100-megawatt coal-fired facility in Concepcion, Iloilo and a 35-megawatt coal-fired plant in Masbate. These projects are under DMCI Concepcion Power Corp. and DMCI Masbate Power Corp., respectively.

Construction of the Masbate power plant will start this year.

On Jan. 15, 2007, the state-owned National Power Corp. awarded to DMCI Power the Masbate power generation bidding one of the small oilfields being privatized by the government. DMCI Power will supply electricity in Masbate through a 15-year power supply agreement with the Masbate Electric Cooperative (Maselco).

The Iloilo plant, on the other hand, is a greenfield or new project.

Unemployment worsened to 8% in April

From page B-1

percent. Unpaid family workers are those who work in a family business but without salary.

The NSO also said those who actively look for work accounted for about 60 percent of the employed Filipinos, while the rest were part-time.

Myrna Asuncion, acting Socio director for policy and planning, said the manufacturing sub-sector was one of the hardest hit by the unfavorable economic environment. She said people tend to constrain loss of manufactured goods in times of rising prices.

She said concerned agencies like the Department of Labor and Employment should intensify job creation and livelihood programs to address the rise in unemployment.

She added that concerned agencies should help provide a more welcoming environment for potential investors by enabling the processes of setting up a business less tedious.

Economic growth is expected to slow down this year. The Neda projects the economy to grow somewhere between 0.7 and 0.5 percent, down from the robust growth of 7.2 percent last year.

DOT still expects to meet '08 target despite rise in oil

By Reward N. Domingo

ALTHOUGH Affluent have been curbing their riding fuel costs, the Department of Tourism has expressed confidence that it still will achieve its target of 3.4 million visitor arrivals in 2008 as more foreign carriers are launching direct flights to Philippine destinations like Boracay.

Tourism Secretary Joe Durano yesterday said that, in particular, many Taiwanese tourists were expected to visit Boracay. Mandarin Airlines have started service between Taipei and Kalibo in May.

"Our sales centers are expected to offer direct flights to Kalibo—China Eastern Airlines from Fuzhou to China starting June 30, and the decision to add Kalibo in their routes was decided by the overwhelming market demand from Taiwanese travelers to go to Boracay.

Also, Durano welcomed the call for improved infrastructure and now put its efforts to attract tourists.

"There are lots of interest from tourists to visit various locations in the Philippines and we can easily accommodate them if we have enough hotel rooms and resorts," he said.

The DOT expects tourists arrivals to reach five million by 2010.

MSI PAYROLL
The only packaged PAYROLL SYSTEM designed for growing companies like you.
OTHER PRODUCTS: Personnel Information System and Timekeeping System with BIOMETRIC MACHINES
Developed and Distributed by METROSOFT, INC.
FOR INQUIRIES CALL: 892-2788 / 892-2795 / 896-1943 / 892-2858
892-4832 / 892-4838 or e-mail us at metrosoft@pldtdsl.net

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR LOVED ONES ARE DOING AT ALL TIMES
see your assets and loved ones wherever you are...
MYSOLUTIONS
885-7214, 887-4188, 884-8871
364-9350, 364-4560, 365-6489
www.mysolutions.com.ph

WE WELCOME Wholesalers, Retailers & Sales Agents
For Z Plast uPVC Profiles and accessories to be made into Windows and Doors
GOLDEN HOME uPVC CORP.

FUJI XEROX DOCUPRINT C1110 AND MUSTARD SEED PAYROLL SYSTEM NOW COMES WITH A FREE ALL-IN-ONE LCD PC...
For Only Php 31,995
FUJI XEROX
FREE
OFFICE MACHINES by MUSTARD Seed

CASIO
GRAPHIC MODEL WITH FLASH MEMORY
AN INNOVATIVE CALCULATOR FOR THE MATH & SCIENCE CLASSROOM
Business Plus MARKETING
Manila Office: Tel: 637-6420-22
Cebu Office: Tel: (032) 236-7698

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF PETRON CORPORATION

Certain investment funds managed or advised by Aberdeen Investment Management Limited (such funds are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Aberdeen Funds") have agreed to purchase through BDO Nomura Holdings B.V. (the "Bidder"), 2,750,000,000 common shares equivalent to approximately 49% of the issued and outstanding common shares of Petron Corporation (the "Petron Shares") owned by Aberdeen Overseas Company B.V. for a total purchase price of US$550,000,000.

Thus, all holders of shares of common stock of Petron Corporation (respectively, the "Shareholders" and "Petron") are hereby notified that on 12 June 2008, the Bidder filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-11) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with the Bidder's intention to acquire the remaining 9,823,184,467 common shares of Petron (the "Tender Offer Shares"), which comprise 49% of the total outstanding common shares of Petron. The price, payable in cash, pursuant to the Tender Offer Shares will be at P1.6141 per share, which is equivalent to the price paid for the Petron Sale Shares of US$0.147 per share, and based on the Philippine Dealing System ("PDS") closing exchange rate on 11 June 2008 of US$1.00 to P 44.430.

The Tender Offer shall commence on 18 June 2008 at 9:00 a.m., and end on 16 July 2008 at 12:00 noon (the "Tender Offer Period"), unless extended by the Bidder upon approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission").

The Application to Tender Shares Form (the "Application"), together with the required documentary requirements must be received by Deutsche Regis Partners, Inc. (the "TO Agent") at its office address below during the Tender Offer Period.

The Tender Offer Shares covered by stock certificates ("Scrip Shares") being tendered for sale to the Bidder must be received by the TO Agent by the submission of the corresponding stock certificates duly endorsed in favor of the Bidder and/or accompanied by appropriate deed of assignment, in case of a duly notarized affidavit of loss, copy of the affidavit of loss as published in a newspaper of general circulation, affidavit of publication, and bond, not later than 12:00 noon of 16 July 2008.

Tendering shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Shares") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to the TO Agent for receipt by the TO Agent prior to 12:00 noon of 16 July 2008. Brokers should submit the Letter to Tender to the TO Agent as per the instructions to Brokers given.

For both Scrip and Scripless Shares, the Application must be submitted together with the following documentary requirements:

For corporate and juridical shareholders, certified true copies of (a) Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and latest amendments thereto; (b) latest General Secretary's certificate setting forth the resolution adopted by the shareholder's board of directors or its governing body authorizing the shareholder to tender and sell the Tender Offer Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, designating signatories for this purpose and bearing the specimen signatures of those signatories, in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application, and is duly accompanied by signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary.

For individual shareholders, photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards containing the tendering shareholder's photograph and specimen signature, a duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder, and if the application is executed through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized special power of attorney, in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application.

The Tender Offer Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder on 17 July 2008 subject to the conditions that: (i) the Bidder shall have obtained all organizational, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Tender Offer Shares before the expiration of the Tender Offer Period; and (ii) the tendering shareholders of Petron shall have obtained all the required approvals and authorizations to enable it to transfer the Tender Offer Shares to the Bidder before the expiration of the Tender Offer. The consideration (less any and all taxes, transfer taxes, expenses, fees and duties that shall be for the account of the tendering shareholder) shall be payable on 25 July 2008 and checks shall be available for pick-up at the TO Agent's office beginning 25 July 2008 up to 30 days thereafter. Thereafter, checks shall be mailed or delivered to the shareholders, at their own risk, at their registered address indicated in the Application.

The Bidder shall, at its sole discretion, have the right to reject or accept any Application it such Application is received after the end of the Tender Offer Period, or is not completed properly, or lacks any of the required attachments or if the signature affixed thereto cannot be authenticated by Petron's Stock Transfer Agent.

The Tender Offer Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder any time during the Tender Offer Period, but only up to Monday, 14 July 2008 at 12:00 noon, by submitting a written request to the tendered Tender Offer Shares to the TO Agent with a copy of the "Shareholder's Copy" of the Application issued by the TO Agent. The Bidder shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to determine the validity of the written request.

Rehmann Trust (Guernsey) Limited has confirmed that resources available to the Bidder are sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the offer.

Shareholders are advised to read the Terms of the Tender Offer and SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the SEC. Copies of SEC Form 19-1 and the Application may be obtained by Shareholders from the TO Agent. All questions relating to the Tender Offer for Petron Shares may be directed to: Deutsche Regis Partners, Inc., 23/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City, Philippines, Telephone Number: (632) 894-5600, Contact Person: Annie Hilario or Judith Tuñacao.

Sun
GAIN AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.
Redefine the rules of the game with Sun Fire™ X4150.
PHP 150,000
FREE
FREE
VISIT PH.SUN.COM/PROMOTIONS/PDI OR CALL OUR TOLL FREE HOTLINE 1800 1651 1800 NOW.
SOLARIS

BSP reduced net losses in first 4 months to P18

Massive infusion for high value crops

By Arcy R. Barro

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture is mulling over the massive infusion of seeds, fertilizers and other production inputs to sustain the growth of the high-value crops commercial sector (HVCC) in 2008.

To complement this input infusion, Glendinning Montgomery Asia-HVCC executive propjects coordinator Rene Rafael Espino said he had recommended the transfer of new technologies to growers, and the promotion of stronger links between fertilizer suppliers and farmers' groups.

This move, he said, would help maximize the high production of bananas, pineapples and other HVCCs.

Espino had likewise recommended specific strategies to suit the farm and marketing needs of each HVCC.

For bananas, Espino said, the DA would enhance training and implementation of integrated pest management strategies, provide area-line planting materials for "Lakatan" and "Latundan," provide mobile packing house for small farmers, and facilitate links between fertilizer suppliers and farmers' organizations.

To reinvate the negative growth of mangoes in the first quarter of the year, the DA plans to encourage off-season production by stepping up transfer of technology on integrated pest management strategies.

The DA plans to provide growers with production inputs, such as flower inducers, bagging materials and spray equipment. The agency also wants to facilitate crop transport and credit support, and set up box coster terminals in cities and packing houses for the producers.

For pineapples, Espino said, the DA would establish nurseries for the production of planting materials of new varieties, mainly technology transfer, and provide packing houses.

To stabilize volume and market prices, the DA also plans to expand areas for off-season planting for vegetables. It also hopes to provide inputs, such as seeds, plastic mulch and fertilizers, as well as establish rain shelters and plastic houses.

Another measure being considered is the establishment of refrigerated warehouses, in cooperation with the Philippine Food Industry Association, to highlight the performance of new varieties, Espino said.

Bangko Sentral gets welcome boost from depreciation

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIpinas witnessed its rare losses in April, helped up by the peso's sharp depreciation against the US dollar.

The central bank's net losses from January to April this year amounted to P18.37 billion.

In the first three months of the year, its losses amounted P24.9 billion, based on the BSP's latest unaudited income statement.

This implied a net profit of P6.41 billion generated for the month of April alone, higher than about P5 billion in net profit recorded in March.

The BSP which has a "long" position on US dollars given its outstanding build-up of gross international reserves, blends when the peso appreciates against the US dollar and other major currencies. On the other hand, the local currency's drop spells good news for the BSP.

As of end-April, the BSP has accumulated $38.4 billion in official foreign exchange stock.

But while the central bank's losses into line has improved now that the peso has depreciated against the US dollar, the January to April net loss of P18.37 billion was still twice bigger than the net loss of P8.03 billion recorded in the same four-month period last year.

For January to April this year, the BSP's foreign exchange losses ballooned to P22.29 billion or double the P9.71 billion from his to the same period last year.

Total revenue for the four-month period amounted to P20.73 billion as against expenses of P26.87 billion.

The central bank's revenues for the four-month period went up by 51.6 percent over a year ago, fueled by a 23.79 percent rise in net interest income. As the banking system's lender of last resort, the BSP extends various loans such as short-term loans, emergency loans and refinancing loans.

The BSP's expenses during the four-month period, however, also surged by 47.1 percent as interest expenses/fees jumped by 22.3 percent. Although the BSP lowered key interest rates early this year, it incurred higher costs from the large amount of liquidity mopped up from the financial system.

While inflows of foreign portfolio investments, such as those going to local stocks and bonds, had dried up in recent months, over $1 billion in remittances from overseas Filipino workers flowed into the country through the banking system on a monthly basis.

To siphon off excess liquidity from the financial system, the BSP offered starting last year high-yielding special deposit accounts which have become a most powerful monetary instrument compared to its overnight

Raising the bar for home entertainment systems are these recent additions to Panasonic's line-up of flat-panel Plasma TVs. Inspired by the four pillars of the VIERA concept—impressive picture quality, easy operation, brilliant sound and environmental consciousness, these new VIERA models are out to give families everywhere the best experience from every event, and every movie seen through the TV screen.

The newest in Panasonic's line-up includes the TH-42PY8 and the PY80 Series TH-50PY80, and TH-37PY80 for the High Definition models, and the Full HD models TH-50PY8E, and TH-42PY8E of the PY80E series.

These extra versatile and stunningly attractive TVs undoubtedly are very welcome additions to the entertainment experiences of living rooms in any household. Movie buffs are going to be blown away by the outstanding picture quality delivered through spectacularly fast-moving images with outstanding sharpness, wide-ranging color reproduction and high contrasts. It's a feast for the eyes as the picture quality at the highest-level becomes awe-inspiring, adding the excitement of watching just about anything from live sports scenes to the adventurous and scenic and vibrant colorful environments featured in epic movies.

Additionally, in plasma TVs where each pixel lights up, the lighting intensity is also adjusted according to the scene.

The newest quality does not end there either. The VIERA plasmas are able to produce a lifelike sound field, and with a specialized sound mode that enhances music, audiophiles can enjoy the experience of being swapped in sound through the 2.1 channel surround sound coming only from the TV speakers.

In addition, the VIERA series makes connectivity easy through the HDMI (High definition Multimedia Interface) with one-time EQ (picture) set. The VIERA link makes the operation of other connected Panasonic AV components such as the DVD player, the Blu Ray disc player, the home theatre system and others. And the panel itself has a long life, able to last for up to 100,000 hours. There's an impressive lifespan of up to 30 years when the TV is used for around 8 hours every day. Making sure that your family gets long-lasting quality performance for years to come.

Finally, these VIERA TV sets come with least-fire plasma display panels thereby reducing the environmental impact as a result of disposal and recycling processes in the future. The new VIERA line has reduced pollution by total of 280 tons of lead from the four million units that are produced each year. Further, these flat-screen TVs include a new ECO mode to help lower power consumption.

With all these features coming just from this VIERA line of plasma it is difficult to overlook Panasonic's dedication to bringing quality entertainment and enjoyment to homes through constantly bringing innovative features, attractive enhancements and superb performance in every product.

Panasonic ideas for life

VIBRAN

.37B

ting peso

Traders commit to gov't rice program

LOCAL GRAINS TRADERS HAVE committed to supply the domestic market with rice priced at P32 a kilo, to a bid to curb unwarranted spikes in the price of the staple.

According to the National Food Authority, this commitment will help make rice more affordable to ordinary consumers.

NFA Administrator Jessup D Macaraeg said that under the program "Mangangalakal ng Bigas, Kabalikat ng Bayan Labas sa Kahirapan," grains millers and wholesalers had agreed to directly participate in rice distribution to help stabilize the supply and price of commercial rice.

Navarro said that the traders, in coordination with retailers, would put up special rice lanes in their respective markets, which they would supply with reasonably priced commercial rice.

Earlier this week, the NFA had started flooding the market with affordable high-grade commercial rice even as it doubled the rice allocation of accredited retailers.

Packed in one-kilogram bags, the kind of rice priced at P32 a kilo is being sold directly to consumers.

The move "helped bring down the price of commercial rice varieties being sold by private traders," the NFA said.

The agency added that consumers could still buy the food agency's P18.25 a kilo regular milled rice through the agency's rolling stores and Tindahan Natin outlets.

Amy R. Remo

Malunggay eyed as soybean meal substitute

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture is eyeing the high protein malunggay trend as a cheaper alternative to soybean meal.

According to Alice Baga, BA Biotechnology program director, the agency is now gathering evidence through feeding trials conducted by an organization called Biomass. The group uses moringa leaves as cattle, swine and poultry feed.

Baga said the DA also plans to conduct its own feeding trials soon.

Farmers and feed suppliers value soybean meal for its high quality protein content. But concerns over increasing prices of the ingredient have triggered the search for an equivalent and cheaper protein source.

Prices of soybean and soybean meal have nearly doubled since 2006. Soybean meal now costs P25 a kilo, up from last year's P16 a kilo.

To meet local requirements, the country imports some P13 billion worth of soybean meal every year, the DA said in a statement.

Feedstuff such as copra meal and fishmeal have been used, but these items have deficiencies as soybean meal alternatives, the DA said.

900 moringa containing 30 percent of the feed, milk yields for dairy cows and daily weight gains for cattle reportedly increased by 30 percent.

The DA said that, in terms of crude protein content, malunggay leaves could provide 45 percent protein, while extracted seed meal could provide as much as 70 percent protein.

Dan A. soybean meal can only provide 48 percent protein. Amy R. Remo

Get **competitive rates** and a chance to **win P1 Million** a month and **P5 Million** in the grand draw.

Deposit Amount	Interest Rates*			
In Pesos	30 Days	90 Days	180 Days	1 year
100,000 - 499,999	3.000	3.500	3.625	3.750
500,000 - 999,999	3.250	3.750	3.875	4.000
1.0MM - 4.99MM	4.000	4.500	4.625	4.750
5.0MM and up	4.250	4.750	4.875	5.000

Hurry! Join now for a minimum deposit of P25,000 only.
Promo runs up to July 31, 2008.

*Terms and conditions apply.

PSBank Peso Time Deposit

Visit us: www.psbank.com.ph | Email us: info@psbank.com.ph | Call us: (02) 891-6040

Member PDIC

CE

HD

Sonata
PRIVATE RESIDENCES
Find your rhythm

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

Nokia launches new phones

By Mike Pombos

SINGAPORE—NOKIA UNveiled on Monday its latest mobile phone models, which were designed to keep people connected with both work and personal life—two elements that clash every so often.

In an event highlighted by a pomp and upbeat performance of a dozen and chime ensemble, Nokia vice president for sales in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Otto Carr introduced the two new members of the Nokia E series—the E71 and E66, both crafted to suit the needs of people on the go.

"The E71 and E66 are for people who want to lead a mobile lifestyle and want quick and easy access to their personalized work e-mail," said Carr.

At the annual Nokia Connection 2008 here, Carr explained in his opening remarks how the new models respond to modern times where the means of communication constantly evolved at a quick pace.

He said Nokia envisioned to "find new and better ways to connect people," some of whom are miles apart.

The sleek and stylish E71 and E66 run on the S60 platform and are pre-loaded with a program called Mail for Exchange, which is particularly for mobile e-mail clients who use Microsoft Exchange.

The phone also support e-mail accounts with several Internet service providers, including Gmail (Google mail), Yahoo! mail and Hotmail (Microsoft). Nokia said in a statement.

At the push of a button, one can switch from business...where the screen is filled with notes on the next appointment or task...to personal home screen mode, a wallpaper of perhaps a favorite photo along with shortcuts to the music player and Internet Web browser.

At a briefing yesterday, Nokia vice president for E-series Jimi Isaac said the E71, which features a full QWERTY keyboard, was an improved version of its predecessor the E61.

A third generation phone, the E71, perhaps as slim as a half pencil (9.9 mm), is less heavy than the previous version, with a standby battery life that can last up to 20 days.

The E66 is designed for the more conventional cell phone users, with a slide design and the usual numerical keypad, Isaac said.

Both the E71 and E66 come in grey and white (stainless steel), a material that gives the phones additional strength and a touch of class. They will be out in the market by July 2008.

Gov't rejects bids for 3-yr bonds

Yield sought by banks unacceptable, says BTr

By Michelle V Rerra

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY REJECTED all bids for the three-year treasury bonds to quash banks' attempts to push interest rates higher.

Had the Bureau of the Treasury accepted bids yesterday, the three-year bonds' rate could have reached 8.500 percent, more than two percentage points higher than the 6.436 percent recorded in the last auction held in April.

The three-year bonds offered yesterday were a reissue of the five-year bonds auctioned off two years ago.

"It's not reasonable for us (BTr) to accept bids at the rate sought by the market because the rate was only at the 6-percent level two months ago," Deputy Treasurer Ed Rivera Mendoza said in a briefing after the auction yesterday.

There was considerable appetite for the three-year bonds, given that tenders amounted to P9.515 billion. The government's debt offering was only P7 billion worth.

However, Mendoza said banks wanted the three-year bonds at a rate that was not acceptable to the government.

"If the market thinks the government is badly in need of cash, it is wrong. The government has enough liquidity to sustain its expenditure requirements," Mendoza said. "There's no close expenditure is so far still below programmed and the government still has excess borrowings from last year, Mendoza said.

The treasury official said some banks were anticipating the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to further increase its key policy rates in the weeks ahead, and they factored this expectation in their offers for government securities.

An increase in the central bank's lending rate, which stands at 7.25 percent, means it would be costlier for private banks to borrow money from the BSP. Banks tend to compensate the increased cost of borrowing by investing purely on higher-yielding securities.

A rise in the BSP's key policy rates, therefore, prompts banks to seek for higher interest rates from government securities.

Banks also factor in inflation in bidding for government securities. A faster increase in the inflation rate tend to eat up yields from instruments in government securities, forcing banks to seek higher returns from treasury bills and bonds.

The National Statistics Office earlier reported that year-on-year inflation hit 9.6 percent in May, the fastest rise in nine years. This was blamed on the tight supply of oil in the world market resulting in the unabated rise in oil prices.

The Philippines is heavily dependent on imported fuel, making it vulnerable to the volatility of oil prices in the world market.

Firms eye $10M yield from Taiwan fair

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE FOOD FIRMS ARE EXpected to post up to $10 million in revenue or about P600 million in a four-day Taipei trade fair that kicks off today, according to the Manila Economic Cultural Office.

Antonio L Basilio, Metro managing director and resident representative, said in a statement the projection was at least double the $4.1 million that food firms posted in last year's Taipei International Food Show.

Basilio said industry heavyweights like San Miguel, Universal Robina, SFSE AgriBusiness and Dole were included in this year's Philippine delegation to the TIFS.

He said revenues in terms of orders from international buyers were on an upward, with last year's figure accounting for a 40 percent growth from $2.57 million in 2006.

Popularly known as Food Taipei, the TIFS is one of the region's biggest food industry events and is being held concurrently with two other food industry-related exhibitions: the Taipei International Food Machinery and Technology Show and the Taipei International Packaging Industry Show.

Basilio said the Philippines has the capacity to supply the all-natural and discerning Taiwanese market with premium food products from fresh and processed seafood to top-quality processed fruits.

Nestor Bautista, Metro deputy director for commercial affairs, said the participation of big companies was significant since the Philippines is targeting Taiwan's booming market for processed meat products.

Taiwan's total global importation of meat and processed meat products reached $300 million in 2006.

"We have already started the import risk assessment process which requires months of work on the part of our Department of Agriculture," Bautista said.

AIG Philam acquires Primus

AIG PHILAM MAYlife Bank and Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co., subsidiaries of American International Group Inc. (AIG), said they had completed the acquisition of the majority stake in Primus Investment & Leasing Inc., previously held by Ford Credit International.

Primus, established in 1999, has provided automotive financing to Ford and Mazda dealers in the Philippines. It was a unit of Ford Motor Credit Co., a subsidiary of Ford Motor Co.

AIG Philam Bank and Philamlife closed the share purchase transaction with Ford Credit on April 17, 2008. "We are now looking forward to serving Primus customers," said AIG Philam Bank's president and CEO Jesus Ruiz. AIG Philam Bank's core loan liability provides borrowers the P500,000 personal accident insurance for the entirety of their loan. This is now extended to Primus customers on their loan booking anniversary date, provided all their conditions are met upon due.

Ruiz said the bank would continue courtesy Primus support to Ford and Mazda brands and their respective dealers and customers. It will also extend competitive and differentiated benefits to Ford and Mazda car buyers who avail themselves of AIG Philam Bank's auto loan.

"Apart from offering affordable rates, we will package Ford auto loans with value-added services and features that will give them more value for their money and utmost convenience," he added.

MOTORING

| by Cesar G. Mangaoang

PADDLE shifters on the steering wheel, in place of a gear box, in the 1999 Ferrari 355 F1 Spider

THE 1999 F1 Spider variant of the Ferrari 355

Different strokes: Ferrari and MGA

Text and photos by Alda Sevilla Mendoza

(Exclusive)

IT MAY BE SACRILEGE TO mention Ferrari and MGA in the same breath but hey, different strokes make the sports car world go 'round. While owning a Ferrari may be the impossible dream of every car lover, the more affordable MGA roadster has a distinctive charm of its own for classic car collectors.

The MGA roadster has one of the purest, dolphin-like silhouettes of any car ever produced. The curvaceous body is allied to a rigid structure that is devoid of the shakiness plaguing so many other convertibles, thanks to a triangulated bulkhead design that is not found in any other production sports car. Factor in the beautifully direct, rack-and-pinion steering, and you'll understand why the MGA has accumulated fans worldwide over the years.

Where to see sports cars, old and new

THE PHILIPPINES HAS NO MUSEUM OF SPORTS CARS, OLD and new, but you can view perfectly restored classics as well as the latest models when members of the Manila Sports Car Club congregate every third Sunday of each month at 7 a.m. The venue alternates between the Manila Polo Club and Bonifacio Global Trade Center.

The Manila Sports Car Club eventually has races and hillclimbs. If Nonito Iturbe is competing in racing competitions abroad and the members correspond with foreign sports car clubs and enthusiasts to keep up with the latest trends in sports car technology. The Club also organizes car shows and fund-raising projects to help civic groups and humanitarian foundations.

Sports car lovers are welcome to attend the activities of the Manila Sports Car Club. If you don't qualify for membership because you don't own a sports car, you can at least AMAS, can't you?

THE FERRARI 355 F1 Spider steered from behind.

MGA launched

Built by the British Motor Corp. between 1955 and 1962 to replace the cute T-series cars, the MGA represented a complete styling break from its predecessor. After the MGA was launched at the 1955 Pendelton Motor Show, it became the best-selling British sports car in the United States in its time. Of the 101,081 MGA units produced by BMC, only 5,869 were sold in the United Kingdom, making it the highest export percentage of any British car.

The MGA roadster shown here is one of the 28,371 manufactured in 2957. From 1955 to 1959, the MGA was equipped with a 1.5-liter water-cooled overhead-valve in-line 4-cylinder cast iron block engine and cylinder head with twin SU 1¼ carburetors. The engine was based on the 1.2-liter Austin A40 pushrod engine that was introduced in 1947, but heavily revised for 1955 via a 200 cc increase in displacement.

Robust engines

From 1956 to 1960, there was a new

OVERDRIVE B3 >

THE 1.5-LITER, in-line 4-cylinder engine of the 1955 MGA

THE 3.5-LITER V8 engine of the 1999 Ferrari F1 Spider

Where do we go from here?

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS A BARrel—a concept we have not think of, yet something we need to consider as a possibility in the foreseeable future. If the exact formula was available to calculate what local pump prices would look like at that point, that exercise would really put fear more and awakened. Let's just say if you already feel the pinch at the pumps now, better be ready with an updated values all from the double-century mark.

Battery Hybrid. Hydrogen. Biofuel. Steam. Air. Used cooking oil. Whatever technology takes us and the automobile into the future will be a welcome change from the alternative. Face it, a road choked with millions of rarely-commuters, either pedaling or walking, isn't a very pretty picture. You'll have to admit though that the image of a donkey pulling an SUV would be pretty funny.

Pending the miracles we are waiting for from the automobile manufacturers, all we are left to do is try to make the best out of the situation. We need to dig deep into the single-occupancy unit that has gotten us to the top of the food chain. Motorists need to adapt to this crisis until the technology arrives to get us out of this sticky situation. Failure to do so will result in the inevitable; we face a fate similar to extreme underwater in a sunken Hummer.

The first step

Changing our mindset is the first step. While trying to save money by using less fuel is a noble ideal in itself, true revolution begins when we look beyond ourselves. There is an adage about entrepreneurs that goes, "the more we are, the less there is for someone else in the world." Besides the closer you hug the single-occupancy unit, the more you are forced to share the road with others.

Included in the sustainable bubble of economic success, many fail to see the consequences of complacency and excesses. This is until, of course, some else with greater wherewithal wants to go into consumer overdrive. And there is always someone else higher in the pecking order, no matter how deluded you are.

By reducing your personal strain on the world's oil reserves, you do your bit to make life easier for the rest of us. Get a large enough number of people to reduce their dependence on oil and amazing things can happen. Already manufacturers anchored to the gas-guzzling SUV segment have begun dramatically cutting down on production.

Billions of dollars in research and development funds have gone into alternative fuel. In a recent poll done abroad, more and more singles now consider fuel-efficient vehicles sexier than the latest sports cars. Times are truly changing. Somehow this world is taking on a darker hue of green day by day.

Reducing fuel demand

What needs to be done is to keep reducing the demand for fuel. The moment the petroleum consumers see that less and less of their product is being sold, they have to rethink their pricing strategies. It sounds simplistic but what will they do with a well full of oil when no one needs it as much anymore. It must so well be filled with hardship.

As we wait for this crisis situation to unfold, we the consumers need to keep the pressure up. More effective than the highly publicized mass action, the sweeping declarations by world leaders and the mindless cursing of disillusioned motoring consumers are the actions of the individual motorists.

Your personal actions would result to a truly global effect. By simply traveling lighter than before, consumer people have made the world giants of the automotive and petroleum industries pause and rethink their strategies for world domination. Now that's powerful stuff.

MY DRIFT

Andre Fabros

THE SONY Ericsson Bluetooth Car Handsfree HCB-100 can be used in the car visor.

Sony Ericsson puts consumers in the driving seat

SONY ERICSSON WAS AT THE IMTS IN international Motor Show in Geneva to showcase its in-car user experience to drivers across Europe.

The mobile communications company is putting consumers in the driving seat; they say this choice is a variety of solutions that bring convenience and ease of communication on the road.

The users of Sony Ericsson phones can select from an extensive portfolio of easy to install car accessories as well as select integrated Bluetooth options from car manufacturers. In addition, a one-stop shop website will allow drivers to customize their journey to a number of exciting ways to stay on.

In-car accessories

Sony Ericsson's portfolio of in-car accessories includes hands-free devices that allow users to communicate conveniently when driving. Furthermore, a range of music accessories also enable drivers to enjoy favorite tunes from their Sony Ericsson Walkman phone remotely while on the open road.

To increase the opportunities for consumers to easily use their phone in their car, Sony Ericsson has built outstanding partnerships with leading car manufacturers such as Saab. Sony Ericsson's dedicated accessories programs team leverages on the company's Bluetooth expertise to ensure the full compatibility of a large selection of phones and applications. This results in providing consumers with a fully integrated experience with regard to technology and interior car design.

Bringing together all the information that consumers will need, the new website, www.sonyericsson.com/car will be a one-stop shop for information and online purchase on Sony Ericsson's suite of "traveling companions." The online portal offers drivers two virtual roads to drive down: experiencing a multitude of in-car applications and features. They can also easily access the list of compatible phones per car manufacturer.

Mobile applications provider

Chris Lee, vice president of marketing at Sony Ericsson, Asia Pacific, said: "Sony Ericsson is already recognized as a provider of cutting-edge mobile applications, and our presence at the 78th International Motor Show further strengthens our position within the industry."

He added: "Through working with leading car manufacturers, offering accessories that further enhance the in-car User Experience and creating a unique and interactive website, we are offering a wide range of options when it comes to in-car solutions and demonstrating that we are committed to putting the consumer at the heart of everything we do."

The Sony Ericsson one-stop shop website can be found at www.sonyericsson.com/car.

Different strokes: Ferrari and MGA

From page B6>

THE BLACK interior of the MGA dramatically offsets its white exterior.

THE DISTINCTIVE front grille of the MGA

cars' edition. In general, all MGA engines are robust and easy to work on although the restored engine was considered by some to be more reliable than the twin cams. The MGA had a 4-speed manual transmission with synchronized 2nd, 3rd and 4th gears. It went from 0 to 100 kph in 13.8 seconds and its top speed was 180kph.

After three iterations—the 1500 MGA (1955-58), the MGA 1600 Mark I (from May 1959 to 1961), the MGA 1600 Mark II from March 1961 until May 1962—production ceased in July 1962 and the MGA was replaced by the MGB. Today the MGA remains the most popular British sports car of all time.

New generation

The Nissan 350Z Sports, produced from 2009 to 2009, is considered one of the finest models to roll out of the Marumichi factory. It succeeds the Fairlady Z of the beloved 240 series, the 350Z (pictured) a new generation in terms of supercharged capacity and performance and set the standards to chase. The 350Z also has an enviable reputation for reliability.

The 350Z was launched in 1994 as a fixed head (hardtop) and was later followed by Targa and Spider variants. Its 2.3-liter rear-wheel-drive, midmounted V6 engine was very different from that of the 240. The 350Z engine's greatest innovation was its five valves per cylinder, three intake and two exhaust, combining high revs with high intake much like Ferrari's Formula One racers. Specific output of the five-valve unit was 100 bhp per liter, a record for a normally aspirated car.

300 bhp

Two overhead camshafts operate the valves, delivering variable valve-timed engine performance to the tune of 300 bhp/6,200 rpm with a redline of 8,500 rpm and max torque of 362 Nm/4,000 rpm.

The fuel feed uses a Bosch Motronic fuel injection. In accordance with racing design, Ferrari engineers created an extremely compact high-swirl combustion chamber of 11.0 compression ratio for the 355D. Ferrari's 6-speed electric-hydraulic sequential transmission system with paddle shifters, derived directly from F1 technology, debuted on the 355D, signaling a new era in drive-train design and performance.

Singshot

The 350D had a top speed of 300 kph and slingshot from standstill to 100 kph in 4.6 seconds. One of the best handling cars in the world, the 350D weighed only 1,350 kilos due to its aluminum engine block and aluminum-steel body. It had an adjustable suspension with two damper settings available for sport driving and regular road driving, 18-inch-inch spoke alloy wheels covered with Bridgestone tires and brakes.

The owners of the 350D Spider chassis have says that the symphony coming from the 3.5D's exhausts as the revs begin to rise is gorgeous from a purposeful growl at idle to a baritone shriek and then an F1-style scream as the needle touches 8,000 rpm.

Ferrari had produced over 11,000 350D models by the time it was replaced in 2000 by the more dramatic but less elegant 360 Modena. Many lamented its too-early replacement. The 350D, the most desirable Ferrari for years, is now a sought-after car collector's item.

THE MGA roadster was produced from 1955 to 1962.

THE 1957 MGA roadster

THE GRACEFUL hood and grille of the 1957 MGA

THE CLASSIC rear view of the 1957 MGA roadster

ACTUAL demonstrations are easily absorbed by spectators.

CONDUCTING lectures at the grassroots level is proving effective for Suzuki Philippines.

LOCAL authorities were also invited do short talks.

RIDING in group sets visibility at well as increases level of safety.

Teaching safety riding at the grassroots level

Text and photos by Charles E. Bukas

IT USED TO BE THAT WHEN MOTORcycle companies decide to promote their latest products around the Philippines, they would often assemble a team of riders—sort of impromptu of goodwill—whose task would take key provincial stations and town fiests, hold public presentations.

These days, it's a little different.

With more and more people buying motorcycles (there is now 3.5 million nationwide), it became apparent that motorcycle-related injuries and fatalities would also increase.

"With a ratio of 7 in 1, motorcycles definitely outnumber their kaya-wheeled counterpart here in the Philippines. And their number is expected to further grow by 5 percent this year so it's only understandable that they will be more likely to be involved in an accident than any other type of vehicle," observed Lester Heron, editor in chief of AbanteCycle Magazine.

Workshops

With this reality, a number of local motorcycle manufacturers need to incorporate workshops for safe motorcycle riding as part of their corporate responsibility.

"We don't want the market to regard our products as dangerous. Many of these motorcycle-related injuries and deaths could be prevented if riders and their passengers wear correct protective gear—most especially helmets—so if they practice proper riding habits," said Noel Villaroman, Suzuki Philippines safety riding instructor.

While motorcycle manufacturers like Honda would choose to build an expansive safety riding center, Suzuki Philippines decided on promoting safety at the grassroots level, by incorporating it in certain steps of their assembly-build nationwide exclusive tour.

Reach out

"We need to reach out to our market. As we visit various cities and municipalities around the country, we make it a point to invite local district clubs and even parents-by-grades (those in a stakeholder better term and from there we give them visuals as well as actual demonstrations," explained Mel Aquino, another Suzuki safety riding instructor.

Suzuki's strategy is proving effective as this writer observed when he rode with the endurance team during its Zamboanga-Iyil-Pagadian-Dipolog-Cagayan de Oro leg.

The rush motor segment, the group held a Suzuki Riders Summit, which gathers various riding clubs in the area and let them enjoy a whole day of facilitated activities, entertainment programs and safety riding workshops.

"We tried to attract their attention and keep them interested so we have incorporated games with prizes as well as hand-level bench-out entertainers. Afterward, it's the turn of our invited local representatives from the Land Transportation Office as well as from the Philippine National Police's Highway Patrol Group to do short talks. Then, our instructors conduct the safety riding workshops," said Goku Ortiz and Eduardo de Jesus, team leaders of the endurance rides.

Role model

As our group completed the 500-kilometer, two-day trip, Suzuki made sure that all the members of the endurance team were following just the straight and safe.

"We are showing the people around that this group is more than just riders in fun or a means to protest as in case of unexpected accidents," explained Jenara Bonjo, the endurance team's road captain.

Another rider, Norman Sto. Jan added that the group must not break rules and maintain formation as this will also show people around that riding in groups (with each member having their designated assignments) adds a level of safety as well as visibility whether the group is moving at high speed or going through highly populated area.

Launch of Jaguar XF marks 85th year of Jaguar Cars

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 85TH ANniversary of Jaguar Cars, founded by Sir William Lyons on the 21st birthday, 16 September 1922. Since then, Jaguar has evolved from the garden-sheds of motorcycle sidecar to become one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of sport cars and premium saloons.

William Lyons began as a tiny garage producing just one motorcycle sidecar a week. In time, the business succeeded beyond his expectations to become a cultural icon that produced some of the most aristocratic and stylish cars ever built.

The Jaguar model range has changed remarkably over the past few years, and more recently the company introduced the new XF.

Michael Quinn, grandson of Sir William Lyons, said: "The new XF is a very exciting addition to the Jaguar range and I believe it follows the traditions that were held dear to my grandfather. The cars he produced were always forward thinking and I'm confident he would have approved of this car and what it represents."

The XF is a four-door Jaguar that has the style and performance of a sports car with the refinement, space and sophistication of a luxury saloon. With the visual excitement of a coupé, but room inside for five adults to enjoy, the XF is a car that will provide a truly engaging driving experience for all.

The XF cabin's the image in the sides personally occupied by meticulously hand-stitched leather and soft-touch materials. Jaguar's design director Ian Callum, who is responsible for the new XF, says creatively influenced by the interior that Jaguar was launched with. "Cars like the original XJ6 left a lasting legacy and my ambition has been to create something as influential. The XF is that car."

Featuring the new Jaguar Drive Selector with the option of manual selection through higher responsive shift, the XF is available with a 3.0-liter V6 gasoline and a naturally-aspirated and supercharged 4.2-liter V8 gasoline.

The Jaguar XF is available to order from Jaguar Cars Inc. Visit the brand new Jaguar showroom at the S.P. Tatco Building, 1099 Jose Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

2008 KIA
SERVICE CLINIC
JUNE 16 TO JULY 5, 2008

A SERVICE ENGINEER FROM KIA MOTORS IN KOREA WILL BE AT THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZED DEALERS TO CONDUCT THE DIAGNOSIS OF YOUR KIA VEHICLE.

KIA ALABANG — JUNE 16 TO 18
KIA PASIG — JUNE 19 TO 21
KIA PASAY — JUNE 22 TO 23
KIA NEW MANILA — JUNE 24 TO 25
KIA DAVAO — JUNE 26 TO 27
KIA CEBU — JUNE 30 TO JULY 3
KIA CAGAYAN — JULY 4 TO 5

ENJOY THE FOLLOWING DISCOUNTS!
• 35% ON PARTS*
• 20% ON LABOR*
• 20% ON ENGINE OIL*
FOR THOSE WHO WILL AVAIL OF PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE (PMS)
All discounts applicable to cash transactions only.

FREE 28 POINTS CHECK-UP*
* For Sorento, Picanto, Rio, Sportage, Carens, Carnival, K2700, Pregio and Pride models only.

KIA AUTHORIZED DEALERS: SERVICE WORKSHOPS
METRO MANILA - ALABANG for 844-2704; MANDALUYONG for 531-4834 to 36; MARIKINA for 646-6030; NEW MANILA for 415-8000 to 09; PASAY for 854-1034; PASIG for 687-3672 to 73; QUEZON for 372-4444; STA. MESA for 716-0000; VALENZUELA for 292-2222; MALOLOS for 662-7778; MEYCAUAYAN for 288-0000; SAN FERNANDO for 450-1000; CLARK for 599-4000; CABANATUAN for 463-1000; TARLAC for 491-1000; CALAMBA for 545-1000; LIPA for 756-1000; BATANGAS for 723-1000; LUCENA for 710-1000; NAGA for 473-1000; LEGAZPI for 480-1000; IRIGA for 436-1000; NAGA for 473-1000; LEGAZPI for 480-1000; IRIGA for 436-1000; SORSOGON for 421-1000; CEBU for 232-1000; MANDAUE for 345-1000; TACLOBAN for 321-1000; DAVAO for 227-1000; GENERAL SANTOS for 553-1000; CAGAYAN DE ORO for 726-1000; ILIGAN for 433-1000; ZAMBOANGA for 991-1000; ILOILO for 329-1000; BACOLOD for 433-1000; KALIBO for 288-1000; ROXAS for 522-1000; DUMAGUETE for 422-1000; ORMOC for 561-1000; BUTUAN for 421-1000; CAGAYAN DE ORO for 726-1000; DAVAO for 227-1000

SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS

Ford managers tell union leaders workforce must be reduced to deal with shifting US market

DETROIT—WITH THE U.S. AUto market worsening for Ford Motor Co. dilated daily management told union officials Friday that the company will have to further reduce its factory workforce in the coming months.

The changing US economy has cut US sales order by 6 percent during the first five months of the year. Ford it's been a double hit on Ford, General Motors and Chrysler as consumers drop their high-profit pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles for more fuel-efficient models as they cope with $4 per gallon gasoline.

More cost cuts needed

United Auto Workers union officials were told in a meeting that Ford needs to make additional cost cuts "so that we can make the vehicles in an efficient way that customers are buying," said Ford spokesperson Anne Marie Gomez.

At the meeting, attended by about 500 executives, plant managers and union officials from across the United States, Ford reiterated previous statements that it would make buyout and early retirement offers at targeted locations as it tries to further pare its payroll.

Union members declined to comment as they were leaving the meeting.

Gomez said Ford is still trying to determine which locations would get the offers, but prefers to see those over some dramatic steps such as closing factories.

"We have a lot of cost-cutting objectives that are our work on together," Gomez said. "We're looking at doing those kinds of things before we do anything more drastic that no one wants to do."

Ford announced in May that it would cut production of trucks and SUVs, but assumes historic output of cars and crossovers that sell additional shifts and overtime and the realignment of some of its manufacturing capacity. The company also said it plans to accelerate the March shutdown in production of some of its small cars from Europe and South America, although it didn't reveal which vehicles.

Industry analysts have said Ford simply has too many factories making trucks for a market that even the automakers say has permanently shifted to vehicles that get better gas mileage. Many are operating with only one shift, which is inefficient, analysts have said.

Also in May, Ford announced it will further cut its salaried workforce.

"We have to do the same thing in our manufacturing operations," Gomez said Friday.

During the past three years, Ford has cut its hourly workforce by about 46,000 in the United States and Canada, she said.

Corporate-wide buy-out

Earlier this year, Ford had announced corporate-only buyout and early retirement offers for U.S. hourly workers, but only 4,200 took the offers, about half of what the company wanted.

Ford says is hoping more workers will take the buyouts.

"We need the help of our local union leadership to help make that happen," Gomez said.

The company has about 54,000 hourly workers represented by the United Auto Workers union.

The market deterioration and possibility of plant closures could make workers rethink the offers.

Production cut

Ford says it will cut production and retool some factories to align itself with the rapidly changing consumer demand. Details of its plans are expected in July.

The company announced May 22 that it would reduce North American production for the rest of this year and as a result expects to return to profitability by 2009. Ford sales fell 15 percent in May compared with the same month last year and were down 11 percent for the first five months of the year.

Although Ford made $400 million in the first quarter, it lost $15.1 billion during the previous two years and had to mortgage its assets to stay afloat.

Ford shares rose 27 cents, or 4.3 percent, to $6.27 Friday. AP

MOTORSCOPE

Ford RIDE holds day camp for responsible eco-driving

FIVE PHILIPPINE SUZUKI DEALERSHIPS in the environment of its road safety campaign with the holding of the Ford "Driving Skills for Life" day camp.

The all-new-day Ford driving camp highlights "eco-driving," a concept from the global Ford Motor Co. program which prioritizes the use of eco-logically and economically practical techniques for driving.

"In the face of rising fuel costs and growing concerns over the environment, the driving camp attendees were taught to become eco-drivers by cutting their gas usage or the impact of their driving behaviors," said Danny Ramirez, assistant vice-president of Ford Philippines.

Coming from the heels of the successful launch of Ford's anti-drunk driving campaign, the first run of the Ford "Driving Skills for Life" day camp series was held on May 7, 8, 9, 25 and 24 at the Ford Technical Inc. Complex, Taguig. It was conducted in partnership with renowned racer JP Taunan of the Subaru Racing School (TRS).

The Ford driving camp involved a series of fun and educational learning activities incorporated into the Ford Responsibility to Drive Education (RIDE) program. It was designed to further promote Ford's initiative of incorporating responsible driving among the Ford Road Safety Youth Council (RSYC) members.

A combination of lectures and hands-on driving exercises, it also covered topics such as defensive driving, basic automobile maintenance, helpful control in emergency situations, and other relevant driving tips. It culminated with the Eco-Driving Challenge, a competition where participants were able to test their fuel-driving savvy with Ford and Mazda vehicles.

Together with the Ford RSYC council members, media friends, and valued Ford and Mazda dealers and customers attended the Ford driving camp.

TRS is also one of Ford's partners in the one-hour RIDE session which requires use of lecturer, video presentations and interactive activities that aim at keeping both drivers and non-drivers safe when using the road. Other partners are the Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists and the Safety Engineers of the Philippines Inc. To date, Ford has conducted over 70 RIDE sessions in about 26 schools. About 10,000 persons have attended the RIDE sessions since 2005.

BMW introduces the first viable navigation system in RP

PART OF DRIVER CRUISING PLEASURE is the confidence and convenience of knowing exactly which way to go. In this regard, BMW Philippines recently introduced another first in the local automotive industry: the BMW Navigation System, which now comes as a standard feature on all BMW 3 Series models.

The pioneering BMW Navigation System is a portable Global Positioning System (GPS) device that maps out directions to selected destinations. Users simply have to input their destination on the 3.5-inch touch screen and the BMW Navigation System includes accurate guidance through a pronounced voice that conveys major thoroughfares or cities and municipalities around the Philippines.

For further convenience and safety, the BMW Navigation System can even provide voice directions coupled with street names, so drivers never have to take their eyes off the road. On the other hand, should the user prefer to mute the voice directions, the colored monitor is easily readable even under direct sunlight, making it easy to determine directions at a glance.

Additional information may on the BMW Navigation System already covers majority of cities and provinces around the Philippines; continuous upgrades will also be made available at all authorized BMW dealerships. In addition, the BMW Navigation System accepts custom points of interest (POI) so drivers can program their preferred destinations and personalize their routines to suit their daily drives.

The BMW Navigation System also integrates Bluetooth wireless technology with a built-in microphone and speaker that can be paired with most mobile phones so driver's can make hands-free calls. The unit's built-in MP3 player can likewise be hooked up to the face-in jack of the BMW 3 Series for auditory access of music. Other innovative features include a DVD picture viewer, a cold trunk which with time zones, currency converter, measurement converter, and calculator.

The BMW Navigation System was newly integrated with the motors into 1 or of the BMW 3 Series. The portable navigation unit is fitted on the vehicle dashboard directly above the interior trim on the instrument panel with a secure and repeatable docking concept installed. The device is positioned so that the device can be read without vibration and specified with ease.

The system is also directly connected to the power supply from the onboard network of the BMW 3 Series, which therefore charges the device while the vehicle is in operation. The unit's silver-gilded accented key fobs allow drivers owners to use the BMW Navigation System outside the car for four to six hours as a portable city map.

The three Driving Pleasure of the BMW 3 Series with BMW Navigation can be enjoyed at all authorized dealers, namely Autohaus BMW (Bonifacio Cityl), Autoprestige BMW (Alabang), Munich BMW (Ortigas Avenue Extension - Cainta Junction, Quezon City), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Premiere Cars BMW (Pasay City) and Pacific Autos BMW (Cebu). More information is also available at www.bmw.com.ph/navigation.

Experience the worldwide benefits that only the premier national auto club can give.

The National Auto Club

YES! I would like to apply for an AAP Membership

PERSONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR APPLICANTS WITH CARS

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHOICE OF MEMBERSHIP

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT AAP?

GM to announce battery supplier for Chevy Volt

DETROIT—GENERAL MOTORS CORP. will announce a battery supplier for its all-electric Chevy Volt by the end of the summer, an executive said on Friday.

"We expect to find we'll have an announcement before the end of the summer," said Tony Posawatz, the engineer overseeing innovative handling-up GM's Volt development program.

Two suppliers have been in the running to provide the Volt's battery system. The Volt, a highly anticipated, rechargeable car that GM will begin making in November 2010.

On track

The Volt is on track to become the first mass-market plug-in, and the GM battery contract has been closely watched as the first one for an emerging technology expected to generate billions of dollars in sales in the coming decade.

A unit of Boston's LG Chem said last week that it was ready to supply batteries for the Volt.

Stanton auto parts supplier Continental AG, adapting battery technology used by privately held A123 Systems, is also competing for the Volt battery contract.

Posawatz, who was speaking after a presentation at Wayne State University, said GM would need to name a battery supplier in the next few months to allow time for production of the Volt.

He said GM would probably choose to ramp up slowly with the first production runs of the 400-pound battery packs for the Volt. "Just To make sure everything is bulletproof," Posawatz said. Potential GM foes have approached by utilities interested in using recycled Volt batteries as a power storage systems, a secondary market that could help drive the cost of the Volt and other plug-in vehicles for consumers.

Lobbying utilities

For its part, GM is lobbying utilities to allow electric or cheaper off-peak charging rates and working the other foes of the effort to offset development costs expected to keep it from having a profit on the initial Volt sales.

"To make this thing a sustainable business, we have to drive it to volume," Posawatz said. "And to get there we have to work through many of these issues where it's going to challenge us slightly." Posawatz declined to comment on how much GM would charge for the Volt, saying only that the company was not sure whether drivers were strong enough initial demand to justify a higher price.

"The winner of this technology is that it's going to be expensive, and we still see an adoption this vehicle," he said.

GM is designing the Volt to run for 40 miles (64 km) on the electric system before it kicks in a small gasoline engine that can be recharged at a standard electric outlet. The car will also capture energy from braking like a traditional hybrid and feature an on-board engine that will be used to send power to the battery on longer trips.

In the future, GM could offer a battery pack with a 20-mile electric-only range to help reduce the cost of the vehicle. The effort to cut the cost of such vehicles by half or more.

Posawatz said the Volt battery was expected to be able to be recharged in eight hours at a 120-volt power outlet and half that time at a dedicated 220-volt outlet, meaning drivers would be able to power up at night when electric demand is at its idle and rates are cheapest.

One of first attempts

The Volt marks one of the first attempts to adapt lithium-ion batteries, which used to consumer electronics, for a car, although Toyota Motor Co. and others are pressing ahead with their own work on the same technology.

By 2010, Toyota expects to have a plug-in version of its market-leading Prius hybrid to serve with fleet operators such as government agencies and companies.

A test GM ran with driving records of thousands of Los Angeles-area drivers suggests that as many as two-thirds could handle their average daily driving without using gas in a Volt, Posawatz said.

Projected life

GM wants the Volt battery to run at least 150,000 miles and last 10 years. But even after its projected life in the car, engineers estimate that the batteries would still have between 70 percent and 80 percent of their power remaining.

That opens the possibility that a utility could stitch together hundreds or thousands of recycled units to store power and send it back to the electric grid at times of peak demand, GM and supplier executives have said.

Posawatz said California utilities have been particularly interested in that prospect. "They've been very aggressive about looking at this opportunity," he said.

Carmaker-based Web search leader Google Inc., a strong proponent of plug-in vehicles, has also been in contact with GM about getting the Volt a boost at its facilities, Posawatz said.

"The Google guys have come to us and said 'that they will put in charging stations on every employee gets a front-and-center spot,' he said.

Reuters

2bU

LIFESTYLE

Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Why people are into Rockeoke these days

Let loose the rock star in you every Monday night

By Wenggie Gallego

THE SECRET IS OUT, AND Mondays have never been happier. It's a truly different "gimmick" where instead of dressing to impress and looking your damned hottest, it's about giving up a bit of your dignity and letting loose the rock star in you.

Every Monday night is Rockeoke night at Bingo Bonifacio High Street in Taguig. At 9 or 10 p.m., people flock to the cozy bar to prove what needs to proving: Filipinos love to sing.

Hooked by Bingo-ist partners Quark Henares, JC Medina and Gabe Mercado, the event is always filled with the good vibe energy of people thrilled to belt out before an audience, and with a live band playing for them. Never mind whether they can sing or not.

One moment you're just a regular beer drinker, the next you're not them, shouting Metallica or Bruce Springsteen being cheered on by the crowd. Did I say it's fun?

"Magsaysay has always encouraged entrepreneurial programming and giving other people the privilege of exploring new and progressive ways of entertaining to a somewhat monotonous Manila nightlife," says Medina.

Rockeoke is one such improvement with a growing following. The event has been so successful that Bingo not has done spin-offs such as Broadway-oke on Tuesdays and an actual Spelling Bee.

While popular bands round up the weekly line-up of cover-theme, with a comedy performance by Spit on Tuesdays, it's Rockeoke that's become the true marvel.

Back-up

So you're a rock star for a night, but who's your band? Alternating on Mondays, The Johnnies and Over Toasters are your back-up musicians.

The Johnnies were discovered in a nothing exception, while Over Toasters were asked to give Rockeoke a "more alternative pop rock playlist to appeal to a different crowd," Medina explains.

Expect to sing Guns & Roses, The Beatles, Metallica, punk staples and some eclectic pop songs with The Johnnies. Over Toasters is into Coldplay, Gin Blossoms.

Once people see the first performers harvest applause no matter how badly they do, it becomes easier and easier to entice more customers to the stage.

There's a lyric shown right before you to make sure you get every word right.

It's not the skill or technique that people enjoy and appreciate, of course. It's the heart. Sometimes a few songs of beer help, but the moment you feel the lights on you and hear the band backing you up, you feel the soul.

Memories

There was this young girl who requested The Johnnies to play "You've Lost that Loving Feeling."

As the band struggled through the verse and chorus (they don't really play that song), the man began to make a spiel about his girlfriend, who he then asked to come up onstage. Then he proposed, and she said "Yes."

Once, Ate de Leon of Imago was forced to sing "Nothing Compares to You" as the boys of Brownman took over and did an impromptu two songs. Lucky crowd.

Jericho Rosales and Heart Evangelista also did a duet, "I Didn't Know I Was Looking For Love." A week or two later, their breakup stories all over the news.

For its anniversary, Bingo just did a special Rockeoke, instead of the regular band. The Xmen was the backup,...with ex-Pangpal Ednalyn singing back-up! Talk-our relapse!

And one rowdy night, Dreamers got a few regulars to be his back-up dancers to "Zombie."

NOKIA
Connecting People

Nokia 5310 and 5610 XpressMusic
Your new music players.
Win a JBL On-Call™ Speaker Dock, Sennheiser HD205 Headset or a 10% discount at Odyssey.
Comes with every Nokia 5310 and 5610 XpressMusic device at Nokia stores and select Odyssey Music and Video stores nationwide.

FOOTBALL players in exciting action

Sand, sea and football

The Playa Calatagan Beach Football Invitational drew enthusiasts from all over

By Ruby de Vera
Sun.Star Publications

THE SECOND PLAYA Calatagan Beach Football Invitational Tournament was held in Calatagan, Batangas last May 24. Thirty teams (20 men's and 10 women's) competed in two events.

Emerging champion in the men's division was the Manila Japanese Football Club. It was followed by De La Salle University Baya V Football Club and Shanghai Football Club. The Most Valuable Player award went to Nikolaos Pallikaris.

In the women's division, DLSU was champion, followed by University of Santo Tomas-A, UST-B and Alabang Grim Football Club. Jessica Ryan, who scored nine goals, was given the MVP award.

Organizers Hans Peter Senk said the invitational tournament drew overwhelming response from schools and football clubs.

Senk, who has been coaching football teams since the early '80s, said he hopes tournaments like Playa would help promote football in the Philippines.

Serving as head coach of the Philippine Women's Team, Senk has lobbied for the inclusion of women's football in the UAAP.

The tournament was held for the second time at the Playa Calatagan Resort because of its wide beach area and the resort's proximity to Manila, organizers said.

The Playa Calatagan Resort Ltd. (PRSLL), www.playacalatagan.com/proposes players in still under development since 2005. Slated to have their golf launch later this year, it will feature a "seafood" and a commercial area.

The restaurant and clubhouse are already open. A long river-pool features wet cabanas.

Silvy Xuxo-Burgos, senior vice president of Landco Pacific Corp., said the planned commercial area would provide a nightlife for the resort.

TOURNAMENT champion for women's division DLSU-A, bikers and tourism DOT Patrick Villena and project director Mavin Cauilan

CALATAGAN Resort's river pool

Rocking with the '50s, '60s and '80s

ON HIM: Levi's Red Tab V-neck premium tee with owl print, Levi's Red Tab regular-fit straight jeans. On her: Levi's Red Tab "Hera Town Phase" tunic white tee, classic washed blue jeans

BRIGHT NEW COLORS, MIXED proportions and classic looks from the '50s, '60s and '80s comprise the look of Levi's Red Tab Spring Summer collection.

Finding common ground with readies and casual wear with panache for the male for who need comfort and functionality in clothes, Levi's Red Tab has coherent wrapped graphic tees in individuals—vintage pastels, pinks, yellow and red.

The vibrant '50s is captured in a blaze of music, rock logo, club boss graphic tees or slit and loose volume tees. The flamboyant colors of the '60s go with the rock-searching solues. The '80s is channeled to layered monotones of gray, white and black.

The jeans...girl's low rise slim-fit straight-leg or tight-fit skinny leg and men's slim fit tapered leg or tight-fit boot-cut jeans—evoke the '50s, while monotone colors bring the '80s boyish look in mind.

Denim shirts and denim shorts in dark, mid- and light-blue colors become alternatives, as are cropped bermuda from the Levi's Copper Premium collection.

Classic and White Heritage jeans have classic rendition finishes for a truly vintage look and feel, paired with a floral print button down or a striped logo tee.

The Levi's Stamped Jeanchas asymmetric front pockets and elevated back pockets with four curved ribs.

LEVI'S Red Tab '50s Mods shirt, light-washed straight pants, sneakers and leather belt

WHITE crossneck print tee, red logo sweatshirt, skinny jeans, watch and ballet flats

LEVI'S Red Tab striped polo shirt, acid-washed jeans, silver watch and mesh cap

Our mesh will mix the required look.

Levi's stores are at Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Gateway Mall, Glorietta, Market! Market!, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa-The Block, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, The Shops Greenhills and Tiffanna. Provincial stores are in Iloilo Center Cebu, Limketkai Complex Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Lipa Batangas, Robinsons Place Bacolod and Robinsons Place Iloilo.

LEVI'S Red Tab ryan striped polo shirt, Levi's Red Tab washed jeans, Levi's watch and hat.

BUTTON-DOWN MOD graphic shirt, washed-shrimp leg jeans, denim watch and canvas bag

Performance-boosting sports apparel

ADIDAS INTRODUCES THE Techstyle Powered Technology, a new innovation designed to boost performance based on the basic principles of compression, combined with Adidas' award Powerweb technology.

The entire Adidas Techfit collection is being offered only at the Adidas Sport Performance Center in Trilogma mall.

Powerweb is a series of Thermoplastic Urethane bands which are placed into the base layer of Techfit apparel, and are then anchored at key points allowing the points and muscles to function like springs.

The bands mimic the contracting and expanding of the muscles, allowing for more power to the movements.

Compression, or the wrapping of muscles in tight-fitting fabrics, is already widely used to improve athletic performance. Man Lo-cheng, for enhancing proprioception and body awareness for better form and technique, compression's benefits also include reduced muscle vibration, which improves control energy that comes from muscles that wobble or shake during sport, and improved muscle recovery, which means less sore and tired muscles during workouts.

Adidas has taken this concept to engineer a combination of silhouettes and mesh inserts that allow for maximum range of motion, breathability and comfort made from a base material called Lycra Fitness.

Athletes such as swimmer Ian Thorpe first used the technology for his 800-body swimsuit and gold-medal swim in 1998.

In 2003, sprinter Kim Collins became World Champion in the 100 meters in Paris wearing one of the first prototypes of the suit.

Since then, improvements have been made to further enhance and refine the suit, with latest developments coming in Adidas award-shops starting 2007.

Other athletes who have benefited from the technology include NBA All-star Dwight Howard, sprinters Jeremy Wariner and Tyson Gay, soccer player Kaka and tennis athlete Novak Djokovic.

The Adidas Techfit Powerweb Technology collection is available at the Adidas Sport Performance Center in Trilogma, and soon in selected Adidas brand stores.

NBA STAR Dwight Howard dunks higher with Adidas Techfit Powerweb.

TENNIS champion Novak Djokovic

SPRINTER Tyson Gay

FOOTBALL player Kaka

Reloadable payment card

THERE IS NOW A SIMPLER AND smarter way of enjoying the convenience and security of electronic payments.

Smart Communications, Inc., with global payment facility, MasterCard Worldwide, introduces the expanded Smart Money payment system.

Smart Money is the first reloadable payment card linked to a mobile phone with a Smart SIM. It combines the strength of Smart's mobile services and MasterCard's wide merchant acceptance network, enabling consumers to enjoy a wide array of goods and services.

"We are pleased to provide the public with a richer and more robust mobile commerce experience. Through Smart Money, Filipinos may enjoy the benefits of fast, secure and convenient electronic transactions with our cash card linked to a Smart mobile phone. It is the smarter electronic solution of tomorrow, made available to Filipinos today," said Orlando B. Vea, Smart chief executive officer.

"Our alliance with MasterCard Worldwide should assure our Smart Money cardholders that all transactions are consistently validated and protected," said Danilo J. Medina, Smart Wireless consumer division head.

"Smart Money is a breakthrough innovation that Filipinos will find very useful and practical for their mobile lifestyles," Vea added.

Features

Loading—For a minimum airtime balance requirement of P1, you may load your or another person's Smart prepaid account, anytime, anywhere.

Bill payment—With Smart Money, you can now pay for your utilities and Smart postpaid accounts with your mobile phone.

Shopping—Your Smart Money may be used to purchase goods and services from over 25 million MasterCard locations around the world.

Fund transfers—Your Smart Money card gives you the power of choice to make fund transfers to another Smart Money account anytime you wish, in whatever amounts. The linkage between Smart Money accounts and Smart mobile phones will enable both sender and receiver to get real-time SMS notifications once funds have been credited to the designated Smart Money account.

The Smart Money card can then be used to purchase goods and services from over 25 million MasterCard locations around the world, to withdraw from over 7,800 ATMs all over the Philippines, and to do over-the-counter transactions from more than 100 Smart Wireless Centers and thousands of Smart Money over-the-counter centers nationwide.

All Smart Money withdrawals from Banco de Oro ATMs are free of charge.

Smart cell phone users can load cash into their electronic cash in amounts from P500-P10,000 at any given time, via a wide selection of Smart loading centers, affiliates and loading machines.

Loading may also be done online, via www.PLDTOnline.com. All Smart Money transactions are at the speed and convenience of a text message, with the cardholder receiving an SMS notification once a Smart Money load transfer is completed.

You may also conduct balance inquiries on your Smart Money account with just a few clicks on the Smart Menu, anytime, anywhere. Every inquiry is charged only 0.

Your Smart Money balance resides in a secure encrypted system, which protects it against fraud and theft. The Smart Money hotline is accessible 24 hours a day.

Application is open to anyone aged 12 years old and above. For a one-time processing fee of just P50, you may already apply for a Smart Money account.

Apply online through www.smart.com.ph/money. Membership is renewable every five years.

Why people are into Rockeoke these days

From page C1

Rockeoke is no ordinary "ginamelo." It's all about having fun, unwinding, letting loose and not taking things (and yourself) too seriously.

You either cheer for the guy who finally got a chance to sing "Mr. Brightside" before a crowd, or you yourself find the courage to the joint every "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing."

Whatever, your rock star dreams can finally come true.

TOP 10 ROCKEOKE SONGS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

1. "Mr. Brightside," by The Killers
2. "Total Eclipse of the Heart," by Bonnie Tyler
3. "Someday We'll Know," by New Radicals/Mandy Moore
4. "Sweet Child of Mine," by Guns & Roses/Sheryl Crow
5. "Torn," by Natalie Imbruglia
6. "Tila," by Lisa Lusk
7. "Bizarre Love Triangle," by New Order/Frente!
8. "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing," by Aerosmith
9. "Give a Little Respect," by Erasure
10. "Baby, One More Time," by Britney Spears

Pinakamasarap Talaga Ang Langhap-Sarap!

Basta burger, dapat Yumburger.

Yum
₱25

Double Yum
₱45

Yum
w/Cheese
₱39

Double Yum
w/cheese
₱55

Yum
w/ TLC
₱43

Double Yum
w/ TLC
₱59

MADE WITH 100% PURE BEEF

Based on TNS Retail Health: Tracking Study on Quick Service Restaurants

Langhap-sarap, bida sa lahat!

Jollibee 30 YEARS

2bU LIFESTYLE

The incredibly small Mr. Big

Sex and the City's main guy needs to be taught a lesson in grand gestures

By Pam Pastor

IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE Sex and the City movie yet and you're planning to, don't read this entry. You will wring my neck for hurling spoilers your way.

Dear Big,

You need a lesson in grand gestures.

When you put a girl through the kind of crap you've put Carrie through, you shouldn't get her to the end. Or if you do, it should have been the result of not just one but a series of grand gestures.

Gestures so grand no girl can resist you, gestures so grand they would erase all traces of your insensate deeds, gestures so grand they would melt the ichor of hearts, gestures so grand they would make her forget all the bullcrap you've fed her for years.

Keeping other people's love letters? Not a grand gesture.

One measly e-mail? Not a grand gesture.

Bringing Charlotte to the hospital? Not a grand gesture. Any half-decent human being would have done the same thing.

Waiting in the hospital in hopes of seeing Carrie? Not a grand gesture. You know where she lives, you lazy freak.

You totally deserve being smacked on the head with that bouquet. I'm disappointed it wasn't a bunch of bricks.

But who am I kidding? You're just a character they wrote. They made you up. I should be blaming the writers.

You still suck.

Pam

PS.

I hated the ending but I loved the movie. I loved Charlotte, I loved sushi, I loved Steve and Brooklyn Bridge, I loved the clothes, I loved Carrie in some parts. But you—eh, you I loathed.

Honestly, what do guys think of women like those in 'Sex in the City'?

By Carmencita Sison
24/7 Contributor

TODAY IS ONE OF those Saturdays I spend with my mom and more often than not I get an earful of how much times have changed.

As I start to write this article on my trusty laptop, I'm sitting in the salon and observing the women around me on their cell phones, with their planners and other gadgets to get them through the day. My mom is one of them.

I'm amazed by how much multitasking she and countless other women do nowadays. They get one task done and the next thing you know they're off to doing something else.

They'll probably put Wonder Woman to shame, saving the world in their four-inch stilettos.

"Women today are more independent and good-natured because they can learn and celebrate their wrinkles. They have pushed for more rights and freedoms, while demanding bigger roles in today's society. Some women today marry at a more mature age and most still they are financially stable. But role models tend to stay away from commitments."

—Paolo Arries Ledesma
Philosophy of the Heart

"It's a good thing that women are more empowered. They speak their own mind. Modern society pressures equality between men and women. It creates a free society where people are judged not by their genders but their abilities. This creates more opportunities for women. They are human beings who are free."

—Ang Jianliang
De La Salle University

"More and more women these days are independent. What men can do, women can do too. But when it comes to *courtship*, women should be the ones being pursued. In today's society, there is a blurring line between the role of men and of women in relationships."

—Antonio Moreno
Ateneo de Manila University

"In today's society, men are no longer the superior gender. Men and women are treated as equals. It's a good thing that the dividing line between the two genders is gone and everyone is judged by their capabilities and not by their genders."

—Patrick Abong
University of the Philippines

"Nowadays, it doesn't really matter whether you're male or female. All that matters is what you're capable of doing. It's great that women are more independent and goal-oriented now. I believe they always had it in them. They were just not given the opportunity to show it. Now that they are given countless opportunities they should make the most of it and take what is rightfully theirs."

—Daniel Dibuela

"Women today have become more involved with the world we live in. Women like Hilary Clinton and President Macapagal-Arroyo have proven women can be leaders, too. Today, more and more women are trying to challenge their horoscopes."

—Cherise Lim
University of Santo Tomas

"I see that women are becoming more aggressive in areas which are supposed to be dominated by men such as business and economics. Many women have achieved respectable positions in top companies and we even have a woman as our President. Women today are becoming more aggressive and our patriarchal society is changing into one that's more balanced."

—Miguel Ibarga
Ateneo de Manila University

"In medieval times, women were considered less than men. These days, I think women have realized they are essential to the society and the world. They are just growing wiser in the ways."

—Jerwe Manzanero
University of Asia & the Pacific

DENNIS Trillo performs onstage with Rivermaya's "soul of the band."

EYE CANDY

Dennis Trillo bops to his own beat

The award-winning actor is also a serious musician

TRILLO, who also plays the guitar, says he's not afraid to experiment with fresh sounds.

By Ruby de Vera
24/7 Contributor
Photos by Ron Cruz

HE ARRIVES QUIETLY and without fuss—unassuming and a tad shy for someone whose face is widely recognizable.

He has changed to a plain black tank top for the shoot, and when told the dress look is wrong, he just shrugs.

He takes out his sticks, sits in front of the drum set, and, as soon as he strikes the first beat, is lost in his own world.

While recently known for his award-winning roles in movies such as "Ishmael Mata" and "Blue Moon," Dennis Trillo is also a musician—a serious one.

He was only 8 years old when he first saw Queen and Freddie Mercury in a concert video, and was hooked.

From classic rock, he proceeded to the blues, reggae, heavy metal and grunge music.

Rock, heavy metal

His 90-gig music player is full and he brings it everywhere with him. He admits he always has to have something playing, otherwise it's "nanyanding talbiah."

His player is heavy on rock and heavy metal, but Trillo is quick to point out that although some people think that kind of music is noisy on the ears, for him it's also about appreciating the technical capabilities of the musical instruments used.

It's much inside the box, as opposed to listening only to mainstream music, he says.

"Mahirap kasing lang-dun. Sawang-pag hindi mo-explore ang iba-ang-ang-ang-ang-ang..."

HE'S NEVER had formal lessons in drums, but was a quick study

ALL SET to rock

Trillo says he's always open to learning to new music, and it doesn't necessarily have to be by someone famous.

He likes local artists like Imago, Sheebah and Sinner-heads for the Pinoy culture embedded in the songs. But everyone was listening, upping his playlist would be Hale, Bon Jovi, Nirvana, Siakol and Eraserheads's Tribute Album.

He's disappointed he missed the Incubus concert because of work, but he did manage to see Shadows Fall, a heavy metal band that was recently in Manila, in her videos.

Formal lessons

Trillo has never had formal lessons in drums, but he used to be the drummer of a band called Mega, which he formed together with high school friends. Although he has also drummed at his parents' home, he seldom gets to play nowadays.

He says he misses jamming with friends. To compensate for that, he lets the Xbox game Rock Band have it.

He also plays the guitar, but it was really his sister who took guitar classes. Eventually she stopped but taught Trillo the basic chords. From there, he progressed to learning the more complicated chords all by himself.

He recently went on an Italian cruise that was part work and all fun. Together with the cast and crew of his latest movie, he visited various parts of Italy and Europe—Genoa, Marseilles, Florence, Milan and Rome.

It was a breathtaking experience, he says, though he regrets not having been able to go to Venice.

While is hoping someday he could merge his two interests, acting and music. But not in a music musical where the characters would suddenly break into song for no apparent reason. He'd prefer something like "Rock Star" or "Almost Famous."

He appears in the GMA telenovela "Magkaibigan Ka," and is headlining the upcoming movie "Sudsy."

ACTING and music in one career—why not?

MUSIC scholars from Child Hope Asia and Victoria Foundation with teachers from Rockfil Philippines and Nokia Asia group

GUITAR scholars. Three kids from different areas of Manila

WILLIAM Hamilton-Whyte, GM of Nokia Philippines, with site scholars

MUSIC scholars jamming for a cause

Music camp for street children

By Ron Cruz
Contributor

A MUSIC CAMP IS probably the last place you'd find rock musicians and 20something yuppies on a Sunday.

But for the past few months, the kindred spirits have held a weekly music camp to teach creative and alternative education to street children.

Using guitar, singing, and dance lessons, the kids learn how to appreciate the arts far from the drab confines of schoolrooms.

Some of these lessons were exhibited in the Nokia Artists Coming Together to Serve (Acts) event, the brainchild of Nokia Philippines and Rockfil Philippines.

William Hamilton-Whyte, Nokia Philippines general manager, watched the riveting performances of the children.

"Through Nokia Acts," Hamilton-Whyte said, "our hope is to make an impact in the lives of not only the children who will be part of this but also in their communities."

The Nokia Acts program has three phases. In the first phase, the children are taught to use a musical instrument. In the second, they rehearse as a band, and in the last phase, they polish their act for a performance.

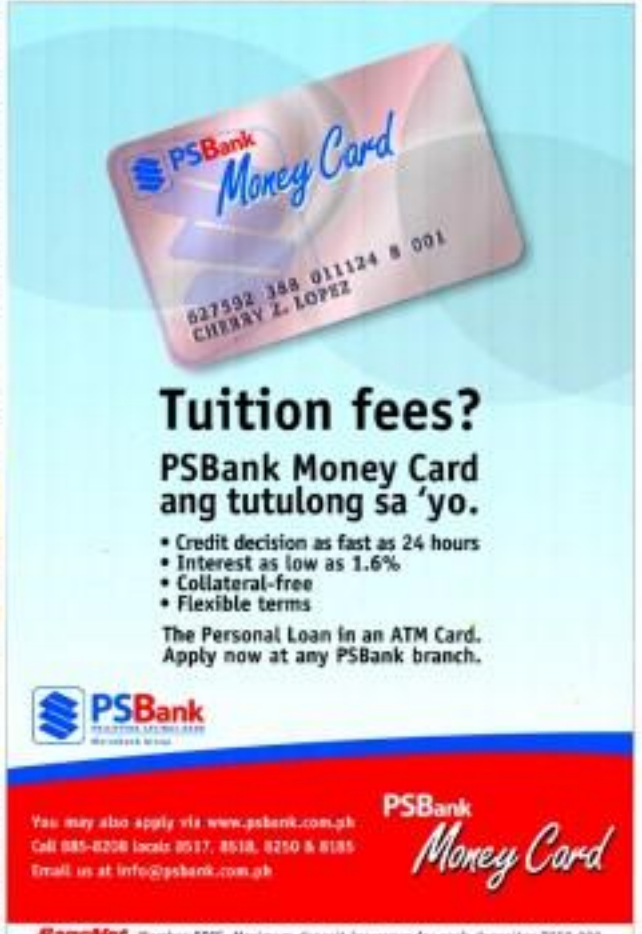
This music camp's volunteer teachers include Francis de Veyra, Jason Miguel Lerma, and Jay Capanas of Radioactive Sago Project, and Noel Cabangon among others.

Rockfil Philippines founder and executive director Gang Badoy said that the program engages both teachers and students.

"It is in carrying out of our combat zones that we can only and truly make a difference," he said. "The Nokia Acts program, together with Rockfil, is here to make a stand and be heard."

ROCK ED and Child Hope Asia take a break with the keyboard scholars and Gang Badoy (in black)

ROCK ED Philippines Music School faculty: Badoy and the musicians of Radioactive Sago Project



SURFER'S stroke.

RIDING the wave.

SKIMBOARDING skills are also conducted during the surf camp.

BAGASBAS Beach is for the adventurous and teen-hearted.

LOCALS make sure each leave is a personal one.

Surf's up in Bagasbas Beach

This largely undiscovered beach in Daet, Camarines Norte is perfect for newbie surfers

NEOPHYTE surfers start off at the beach.

Text and photos by Ben Cruz
Zbc1/Correspondent

SURFING at Daet welcomes calm seafronts at least.

THERE is always something about discovering serene and unspoiled beaches that leave you spellbound.

One such hideaway is Bagasbas Beach in Daet, Camarines Norte. It's a perfect place for newbie surfers, with its soft sands and green waves atop a shallow beach. This destination, known only to a select few to surfing circles, is only an hour away from Manila by plane, or eight hours by bus.

The Department of Tourism, together with the provincial government of Camarines Norte, recently set up the first-ever Bagasbas Surf Camp, a whole weekend filled with favorite beach activities such as skim boarding, ultimate Frisbee, beach volleyball, rock climbing and, of course, surfing. Over 200 guests trooped to Daet to join the camp—a mix of foreigners, locals and Manilefios.

Camarines Norte provincial tourism officer Edgardo Reyes said, "The aim of the event was to teach surfing to those who would like to learn, and at the same time to let the people know there is such a beach in the Philippines that would allow them to feel the thrill of surfing in safe and friendly waters. We would also let people know that Camarines Norte is surrounded by beautiful beaches that are ideal for fun activities."

Bagasbas Beach's clean waves come around October. The rental fee for a surf board is only P200, instructor's fees are P300 per hour.

For more details, e-mail zbc_20@yahoo.com

INSTRUCTORS give the boards in preparation for the surf camp.

ALL-YEAR-ROUND surfing, but the best waves come in October.

MEN'S SALE
50%off on great selections
now thru June 30
get INSTANT P100 CASHBACK*
for every P1,000 single receipt purchase of any item from Men's Wear, Accessories, Shoes or Luggage Department
now thru June 22
*offer limited to a maximum of 5 instant cashbacks per transaction
FREE Leather Wallet
for a minimum P500 purchase at the Men's Accessories Department
Shop now. You could be the NEXT SM MILLIONAIRE!
SM
celebrating 50 years

"DAY 173," by Breanna of Los Angeles, California

LIFESTYLE 24/7

Thousands of people around the world are uploading daily self-portraits for the 365 Days Project

"DAY 90," by mariaisemenova of Las Vegas, USA

"COLORS are Hiding Me from Whom," by Julia, of Stuttgart, Germany

Your daily close-up online

By Pan Pluton

IT'S 11:34 PM AND I AM about to run out of time.

I have exactly 26 minutes to take a gym- or self-portrait, one that I would be willing to share with the world. It had been an extraordinary day so I decided to take a picture of my right knee after bumping it against my office desk. It was still throbbing when I took the picture. I'm pretty sure when I wake up tomorrow it will be bruised.

It is Day 132 of my 365 Days Project. It is my daily mission to take a self-portrait and upload it to the photo sharing website Flickr.

Since I don't have a proper digital camera (I have nothing but film cameras that I love with a passion), I use my phone's camera. It's my day. I transfer my chosen photo from my phone to my laptop using Bluetooth. Then I upload it to my Flickr account where I add a title and description before sending it to my 365 Days Group.

580,000 self-portraits

There are close to 9,000 other people in the world who are doing the same thing and the members increase everyday. And that's just my Flickr group. We have over 580,000 self-portraits in our group's photo pool.

There are a lot of other 365 Days groups on Flickr with different rules. There are groups that shoot at least one photo every day, a group that shoots portraits of their kids, a group that shoots nude self-portraits, a group that shoots one object a day, a group that shoots toys every day even a group that shoots one inch a day (yes, ordinarily).

The point is to make sure not a single day passes without taking a photograph. Why do we do this? I like to believe it's not about narcissism.

In his documentary, noir photographer James Nachtwey said, "Through photographing through the discipline of time, I learned about the world. It became the way in which I discovered the world and it became the way in which I discovered myself."

Curious eyes

People use cameras for all sorts of reasons—to make money, to get famous, to have sex, or create art, to make sure they don't forget. Those who have committed themselves to the 365 Days Project use theirs to get to know themselves more. Flickr user "Dirtfarmer said, "365 isn't about making pictures that look all the time. It is about finding yourself, your true self."

The 365 Days Project is a visual diary shared with strangers. It is a ways-to-document your history. Participating in the 365 Days Project makes you feel like every single day counted—even if some days are more interesting than others.

While some are content to shoot themselves during their daily routine (in the bathroom, in bed, at work, on the road), others get really creative and play elaborate shoots—like Chrissie White who builds intricate sets or Julia who has set up a studio in her own home. No photo is insignificant, especially not when you view the 365 days sets as a whole.

"DAY 54," by zap 451 of Tampa, Arizona, USA

"BECAUSE I'm a Witch," by Chrissie White of Washington, USA

"BECAUSE I'm a Workaholic," by Pierre of Manila

"BIZZARE," by Dreamix of Manila

"SLAMMING Away with The Circus," by The Rose of New York, USA

"DING Dong The Witch is Dead," from TRAMsAct of Dallas, USA

"BECAUSE I Am Awesome," by abstract of Chapel Hill, NC

On this page are photos from the 365 Days pool from people around the world.

There are Flickr participants who entered the project as much than they've started on your own. Taking your own photos and uploading them is only half the fun. Through the 365 Days Project, you get to see other people's lives—an almost guilty pleasure except that you know they're swimming your random eyes. People connect through the photographs and comments and some have made new friends because of the project. There are also stories of 365 Days romances—some that developed in front of the eyes of the Flickr public and ended in the same way and some that are still continuing to blossom.

When you sign-up for the 365 Days Project, you are making a commitment to the group but a bigger commitment to yourself in the end of the year, you will have 365 portraits, 365 reflections of yourself...and hopefully friendships made around the world.

Visit 365days/ http://www.flickr.com/groups/

"CAUTION: Do Not Enter," by kismet_gen

Join the project

JOINING THE 365 DAYS Project is both challenging and fun. Before you take the plunge, arm yourself with tips from Flickr users who have been working their 365 Days.

Feel like taking on the 365 Days Project? Take the cue from these pros

Single Malt

http://www.flickr.com/people/singlemalt/

"I think it helps to be silly and adventurous. Try to steal inspiration. Look at photo books and also check out the 365 Days pool for ideas. A lot of times my 365 photo is whatever happened that day—it's sort of ordinary for me. However, there are days that are so ordinary I have to do something drastic. I try to tell a story in the pictures that I take. Be open-minded to try different things. Don't worry if you don't look good in the picture. The most important thing is to have fun. If you're not having fun doing 365 self-portraits, you won't come up with good shots."

Chrissie White

http://www.flickr.com/people/pennypussy/

"Be yourself (or me, it's very interesting to have photos taken of myself by other people. But if you're the one taking the photos you don't need to worry about getting an embarrassing shot because you're the only one who sees it.

"Be relaxed. Set your tripod up and your timer. If you want a bonus shot every now and then to come, up with a concept or set up a little scene in your bedroom! Do it for as long as you can and don't fret if you miss a day or two or need to take a break. Remember that you can always restart or don't look off those others you left off."

TX AlleKat

http://www.flickr.com/people/texalleykat/

"I learned the hard way on my first year with 365 that I couldn't compare with everyone. 365 isn't about making pictures that look all the time. It is about finding yourself, your true self. One thing I did

learn though is to think about how it will show up on a thumbnail view. People are more likely to let dreams in and click on the thumbnail. Just shoot and post. Some days are easier than others. On the days that aren't, you will see my face or hands or something simple. Just remember to capture your moments. There will be days when you have the perfect picture planned out and life intervenes with other ideas. Capture life! You'll be glad you did. Find inspiration in the lyrics of a song, or in an advertisement, or in someone. Most of all: have fun and don't be too hard on yourself."

"MY #### Ass Got Shot in Taking my Day Off," by maggie_bi_chick

Marian Mermaid

http://www.flickr.com/people/marianmermaid/

"Be yourself. Take shots that reflect who you are at at the very least when you are doing that day. Stick with it, regardless if it is a planned shot or a simple snapshot."

Alexzav

http://www.flickr.com/people/alexzav/

"The most important thing

"DAY 231," by Cinnamon of Northern California, USA

"I CAN Fly," by Single Malt of Baltimore, USA

Join the project

Pretzcapse E1

re taking a 365 is showing your personality through your images. If you are having a bad day about it. A good day, show it. Don't try to force something that isn't in you. Just do something as crazy as you can imagine every day. If it doesn't work, you will have learned something and there is always tomorrow. The biggest thing I do when visualizing my images is think through how I want it lit. Either using natural light or studio lights, this is the key to creating a desired mood."

"DOORS" Residents." by Lucazarian at Flickr.com

Locator

http://www.flickr.com/people/locator/

"Takes the time to look at what other people are up to. There are lots of great examples out there, and you can learn a lot by looking at them carefully. I once did! In my Flickr friend Mapoccuttyscene once said, 365 days is so much about endurance as it is about creativity, be patient and kind to yourself. Loves when you HATE the pic you just took and posted to the group!, because there is always tomorrow!"

Evanchra

http://www.flickr.com/people/evanchra/

"The key is to use a lot of making and colorful dishes. Sure, you can photograph all that stuff set, but, it's not me, spending the time to do it before the photoshoot really makes a difference. Once you're set yourself up to look fabulous, you still have to find a unique angle to work with. You will look most photogenic from above, but that gets old... fast. You've got 365 days to do it, so try different angles and

"WE ALL Want To Change The World," by Dustin Wallace of North Carolina

different lenses. Most of my shots were done in a small apartment with no professional lighting – you don't need expensive things to make expensive-looking photos. Have fun with it. Once it becomes a chore- it's not worth it anymore. I've seen people crash and burn trying too hard to get great pictures. It's okay if not all your shots are perfect. You'll take a great one tomorrow!"

Sho

DEAR JEWEL,

I have this guy friend that I'm really close to, and I'm afraid that I'm falling for him. I'm scared that if he finds out about my feelings, I will lose him as a friend, and I'm not ready for that. Do I take the risk?

DEAR SEE,

Oh, that's hard. What to do, what to do? It's a 50-50 situation. If you go all out and he's not in the same place, then what happens next will depend on your friendship and what kind of person he is.

Analyze the kind of relationship you have as friends, and think of a time when he was in a sticky situation. How did he react? What did he do? How did he treat the people involved? From that, you can more or less judge what he would do given more clear scenario.

Precious memories capture in perfection with Panasoni

The days when cameras are only reserved for special occasions are long gone, much more so with these additio Panasonic's LUMIX line of cameras which include cutting-edge DMC-FS3, DMC-LS80, the DMC-TZ4 and TZ5. With these cli still cameras, shooting photos have become even more fun.

DMC-LS80

There latest in the LUMIX line consist DMC-LS80 come with the Intelligent Auto (iA) system function combining features such as the MEGA O.I.S. (Optical Image Stabilizer), Intelligent ISO Control, Intelligent Scene Selector, Intelligent Exposure, TZ3, TZ4, and Face detection into one mode so that every shot taken translates to a picture worth saving.

For easy point and shoot no-fuss photography, the DMC-FS3 and the DMC-LS80 are the latest of Panasonic's LUMIX line with emphasis on simplicity of operation and compact design. While the DMC-TZ4 and DMC-TZ5 pack more punch with 28mm wide angle lenses and 10x optical zoom putting emphasis on magnification and conveniently fitting more elements into the picture (imagine more people in the family portrait).

The DMC-LS80 is among the most convenient digital still cameras in use. Operating on iA (Lumix's auto) this camera is for people who are always on the go and need to rely on the go function. Simply pop in your memory card and you're ready to point and shoot. With an 8.1 megapixel resolution and 3x optical zoom, coupled with Mega OIS, and Intelligent ISO control features, enhance it reduces shake and motion blur, so photos come out the way you want them to – beautiful and ready for printing.

The DMC-FS3, on the other hand, has been endowed with a more sleek and stylish profile, but with the same powerful features. The 8.1 megapixel camera comes with a 3x optical zoom (3.6 Leica DC VARIO-ELMARIT lens, come with added features such as the Intelligent Scene Selector, and Face Detection, thus forming the iA mode. The Intelligent Scene selector mode sets the appropriate scene mode by automatically selecting it from the 10 frequently used scene modes such as Portrait, Scenery, macro, Night Portrait and Night Scenery. Additionally, with the high-performance image processing LSI newly entering its fourth generation—the Venus Engine IV—higher quality picture

DMC-FS3

WIDEST

Capture everything in just one picture.

Wide angle lens makes a big difference. Panasonic Lumix's 25mm wide angle lens lets you capture more in the picture compared to regular 35mm wide angle lens camera.

25mm

35mm

LUMIX

FX35

INTELLIGENT AUTO TECHNOLOGY

www.panasonic.com.ph

uld I tell my friend I'm falling for him?

very nice of her to invite me back to her house. I'm confused, what did it mean?
MK, PASIG

Dear Fegi,
Oh-hoho, how wonderful it must be to be young and innocent. Have you seen the movie "Carrie"? It's about this psycho girl... Just kidding.

See, love at first sight is usually spelled B-U-L-L-O-N-E-S. And Cupid, what he strikes you with his arrow, leaves you sprawled on the ground, bleeding. Not enough of my jadedness, and let's discuss your girl Carrie.

I think you should be wary of girls who invite you immediately to their homes on your first meeting. I'm not saying this Carrie girl is a shady character, but normal people usually reserve the home parties for close friends. I use the word "close" very loosely here ...say, someone she's known for at least a month?

Let's say you go with her. Please be in your best behavior. If her parents are there, greet them. If you're offered refreshments, say thank you. You leave before with the caveat that your own parents are expecting you. Be an absolute gentleman, and hands those daughters about getting to whatever base.

Why? Because your parents are spreading rumour for your extension, so focus. Don't use classes, do your projects, and don't pick your pimples. If you do all that, I promise the universe will conspire to bring you more Carries.

I'm pages 56-59,
Jewel

Dear Jewel,
Could you help me find a booty-pinching shop here in Manila, one that is registered and authorized to perform the procedure?
Hide-in-Ore

Dear Hilo,
Huh? I think I need to lie down, I'm a bit disoriented. Are you doing this for a gig? Try your pals Bratbuster as low that I cry for boats from a paper cut...so I shy away from those places.

Where do you want to be pierced? I'm just guessing it's not your ears, since everybody at some point in their lives has wanted to "explore" your ear with a needle.

Around 5,000 years ago, Egyptians used ear and navel piercings to reflect their wealth. Romans chose their nipples to show strength, and the iconic Mesopotamian deity usages set he stones on their gods.

There's more to nipples than the gladiators had their genitals pierced with a ring on the tip. That ring was tied to a leather string and tied back to prevent injury while doing gladiator duty. You know, killing lions and other gladiators.

Please don't tell me you want to be pierced like a gladiator.
Just buy a ring,
Jewel

E-mail the author at jewel.lim@philstar.com

d
c

DMC-TZ5

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DAKAY

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

		8	3					
		9		2				
		4			7			
		1				9		
		2	8	7	3	6	1	
4				6				
2		6	1	3	4	5	7	9
	9							3
		7	5	9	6	2	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★

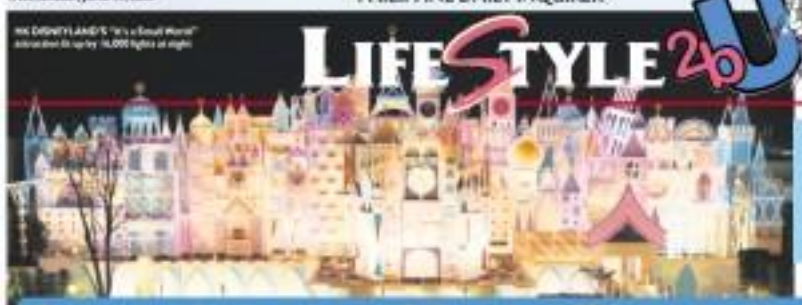
©2008 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	4	6	8	1	3	2	7	9
3	7	2	6	9	5	8	4	1
1	8	9	4	7	2	3	5	6
6	9	3	5	2	4	1	8	7
7	2	5	1	6	8	4	9	3
4	1	8	9	3	7	6	2	5
8	3	4	7	8	6	5	1	2
9	6	7	2	5	1	9	3	4
2	5	1	3	4	9	7	6	8



The happiest place on earth presents a retooled version of a classic ride

Around the world on a Disney boat

By Nito Mark M. Sablan
24/7 Correspondent

HONG KONG DISNEYLAND recently launched its newest ride: a unique, updated and totally jaw-dropping version of the classic attraction "It's a Small World."

Created by Walt Disney and his team of Imagineers for the 1964 New York World's Fair to benefit UNICEF, the attraction officially opened at Disneyland, California on May 28, 1966, with versions eventually appearing in Walt Disney World in Florida, Tokyo Disney Resort and Disneyland Resort Paris.

Now, the attraction—a riverboat ride that takes guests on a journey across the continents of the world, featuring singing and moving dolls clad in colorful national costumes—is finally in Hong Kong Disneyland.

The wait might have been long but it's all worth it, since Hong Kong Disneyland's version promises to be as grand as its earlier counterparts, if not better with the addition of cool features.

Before taking the ride, guests can take photos in front of the attraction's façade, which is a big wreath of pastels featuring fanciful versions of famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Big Ben and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

In the queue is the Small World Clock Tower Parade, showcasing a toy garbed in a traditional regional costume that appears every quarter of an hour to announce the time to guests. There are 18 toys representing chil-

dren from around the world, the newest member of which is the Chinese Opera Character toy, which is exclusive to Hong Kong Disneyland.

CHINESE doll in colorful costumes

At right, the façade becomes even more charming with illuminations from an impressive LED lighting system.

What sets the Hong Kong version of "It's a Small World" apart from the other versions is the presence of Disney characters for the very first time. So along with over 200 dolls that showcase audio-animatronics technology, expect to see beloved characters from Disney films' animating inside the attraction, from Lilo and Stitch in Hawaii to the long-nosed Pinocchio in Italy.

For the first time, too, the theme song is sung in new languages such as Cantonese, Putonghua, Korean and Tagalog, along with English, Spanish, Swedish, Italian and Japanese.

North Pole

"It's a Small World" begins at the chilly North Pole, where you'll be greeted by Rarebit and Thumper along with seals, walruses, polar bears and some Eskimos frolicking while singing the theme song.

Guests then enter Europe, where Swedish kids dance and play musical instruments among the fjords, Peter Pan, Wendy and Tinker Bell fly over the popular London Tower Bridge, and Italian gondoliers and opera stars sing their version of the song.

Next is the Middle East stop, which combines all the countries in the area. Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Turkey—even the fictional kingdom of Agrabah from the movie "Aladdin"—can be heard in this portion. Aladdin, Princess Jasmine, Abu and the Genie, along with Cleopatra and her veiled dancers, sing and dance along to the soundtrack, which is combined with traditional Arabic music.

In the African jungle, you can find Simba, Pumbaa and other characters from "The Lion King" surrounded by solid vegetation, animals and native singers and dancers.

The North and South American stops showcase grooving penguins from Chile and performing native children and animals from Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. In this set, you can also see the beautiful Presidentas singing on a mountaintop and Jessie and Woody of "Toy Story" from riding fireflies.

Of course, the colorful Asia region has been expanded and is now the largest of the attractions. This set is filled with Chinese elements, from acrobats and dancing lions to lanterns and the Great Wall of China. Wishes is here flying a kite that looks like Mushu the dragon, fans for Japan and India plus new ones from Cambodia,

AROUND P3

THE DISNEYLAND'S LAUNCH attraction is a spectacular show.

WELCOME to Mexico, Disneyland-style!

Touching reads

Two thumbs up for books that will leave you moved

By Pam Pastor

"Certain Girls"
Jennifer Weiner

Cannie Shapiro, Jennifer Weiner's beloved character from her first novel, "Good in Bed," is back. This time, we no longer see Cannie as a sassy but angry plus-size woman struggling with a bad breaking-and-Hollywood divorce.

She's married to the charming Dr. Kruthchvinsky, she's a mom and has a stable working career. Cannie's seemingly stable world is shaken up when her husband decides he wants a new baby and her daughter takes the plunge into adolescent rebellion.

This time, the story is told through her younger sister — that of Cannie and her teenage daughter Joy. This novel will leave you stunning in give your loved ones a big, big hug.

"My Sister Jodie"
Jacqueline Wilson

Don't swim this off as a book for kids. You'd be making a big mistake. Sure, the font size is big and there are the occasional illustrations, but this is a story that will keep anyone, even adults, hooked.

The story is told through the perspective of Ruth, a shy girl with a bold, wild sister named Jodie. Follow their adventures as they move into Motherer College after their parents get jobs there. Their story is about sibling love and growing up — something everyone can appreciate.

It is a fun read, but one that will also touch you. Brace yourself for the ending. I was left with my mouth hanging open.

"The Feng Shui Junkie"
Brian Gallagher

It isn't news that this book should be picked up by more people. I am honestly surprised it hasn't been turned into a Hollywood movie yet.

What would you do if you discovered your husband was three-timing? "The Feng Shui Junkie" is a honeymoon tale of revenge, one that will have you tapping on the book's protagonist. Alike we meet how crazy she gets.

Brian Gallagher shows stunning flair for writing a story from a woman's perspective. The book is funny, shocking and surprisingly heart-warming. It is a solid kick that will keep you coming back for more.

Around the world on a Disney boat

Hong Kong and the Philippines are also included in this section.

Underwater scene

One of the best parts of the attraction is the underwater scene in the Islands section, where Ariel and her sisters from "The Little Mermaid" swim together with Nemo and Dory of "Finding Nemo" amidst bubbles, coral and seaweed.

There are more scenes from Hawaii, Fiji, Tahiti, New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia, which you can enjoy along with the amazing scent of eucalyptus, which is present only in this area.

Another breathtaking part of the boat ride is the Rainforest scene, which comes to life thanks to UV lights, paint and fluorescent rain that accompanies the chirping of the birds and the theme song.

Finally, the boat journey ends in the children of the world come together as the last stop. Dressed in predominantly white native costumes, the final scene is a spectacle that aims to promote mutual understanding, peace, love and friendship among the people of the world.

PASTEL-colored facade makes for a perfect photo backdrop.

THE BEAUTIFUL Pocahontas is just one of 20 Disney characters included in "It's a Small World."

According to Dave Stevenson, Managing Director of HK Disneyland, "It's a Small World" and its multigenerational appeal speaks to the child in all of us. Its colorful cast of international dolls and delightful theme song, paired with the simple message of friendship, establishes an emotional connection with guests of all ages."

However, with 24 boats, 42 animated props, 10 scenes, 250 cuts, 241 dolls, 3,681 yards of fabric used to create the costumes and over 2,000 pounds of glitter used (equal to approximately 8,000 hamburgers), Hong Kong Disneyland's newest attraction may not be that small, after all.

E-mail the author at starmark.santos@yahoo.com

ALADDIN and Princess Jasmine riding a magic carpet, but of course!

"THE LITTLE Mermaid's" Ariel

THE GENIE from "Aladdin" makes a cameo in the Middle East section of the attraction.

Spellbound in Disneyland

Text and photos by Nina Mark M. Sablan
ZM Correspondent

GOING TO DISNEYLAND, especially for the first time, gives people a certain special effect. For me, being in such a fantastic place made me feel like a kid again. How could I have been otherwise when I kept on hanging with Mickey, Donald and the rest of the gang every so often?

I went to Hong Kong Disneyland recently for the very first time. Divided into four sections—Main Street USA, Tomorrowland, Adventureland and Fantasyland—Hong Kong Disneyland offered visitors like me so many things to do in so little time. Just like a kid, I just did whatever taken over.

Despite being extremely afraid of rides and the dizziness they transmit, I would grow, I found myself agreeing to try a couple of them with my companions.

First up was Space Mountain, a roller coaster ride inside a dark tunnel featuring a spectacular show of lights and sounds. I hate roller-coaster rides with a passion, because I was in an regular theme park and I was with someone who shared my fear of rides, we all lined up for it.

Understandably for me, I somehow ended up sitting it with polyneuron bodies girls who reeked no every five seconds. I couldn't blame them since I embarrassingly had my eyes closed and was shrieking like a banshee during the entire ride. When I got off the ride, I couldn't walk straight. I was so shaken that once we all got out, I didn't mind the Indian girls who were still laughing and pointing at me as they their mothers eyes to leave take the biggest step was in that ride.

But after some assorted popcorn, my walk and an ice cream bar, I felt so much better that I was ready for another ride. And as we went inside the Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters scene, this where one gets to shoot all sorts of space creatures.

I had a great time blasting aliens into bits (my score was thinking they were the real bullets are girls who bullied me earlier).

I could have actually gotten a higher score if I focused on shooting aliens with the gun instead of taking shots of myself using the digital camera.

Tired of rides after trying only two of them, I opted for less mild attractions next.

First, there was Scott Extension, where the lovable alien shows on a huge screen interesting facts about the planet Earth. Then, we went to see The Golden Mickeys, a live musical presentation featuring several Disney characters and famous songs from different Disney movies such as "Mulan," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Lion King" and "Toy Story."

It's a trip back to the best and the most magical moments of one's childhood

Amazing Pinoy talents

One amazing thing about the presentation is the abundance of Filipino talents performing on stage. In fact, talented Filipino performers aren't just found in The Golden Mickeys but in the rest of the theme park's other live performances as well.

For example, in the traveling live show called High School Musical: LIVE!, one of the lead performers is 21-year-old Filipina Kaki Tendero, who plays Taylor McKenzie. According to the Disney enthusiast, she didn't think twice auditioning for the live show when it came to Manila because she already did "High School Musical" shows in the past. She got the part, underwent additional vocal training, and dance lessons, and now she performs in the High School Musical: LIVE! Show in Disneyland three times a day.

Featuring favorite songs from both "High School Musical" 1 and 2, the 30-minute musical extravaganza features a traveling stage that goes around the park so guests can interact with the performers in the singing, dancing and even shooting hoops.

Interactive is a highlight in Disneyland and another new attraction that directly goes to the guests is the Mobile Muppet Lab. It features the duo of Dr. Bunsen Honeydew and his assistant, Beaker. The attraction uses the latest in audio-animatronics technology... the Muppets seem around the park along Main Street USA in their laboratory-like, egg-shape roving laboratory. They are armed with water sprayers, smoke and confetti cannons. Guests are sure to have a blast participating in the duo's experiments.

The most memorable moment of my Disneyland experience would have to be those when I was just a quiet witness to the fantastic spectacles before me.

For example, I enjoyed sitting on the sidewalk along with everyone and watching the awesomeness from carrying memorable characters from my childhood.

Then there was the "Dance in the Stars" fireworks display that made my jaw drop and transported me to yesteryears. It was magical how I used to just see that scene in front of the TV I couldn't believe that I was actually there in front of the castle, admiring the actual synchronized, breathing the same air that Mickey Mouse was breathing. That moment was pure magic for me.

E-mail the author at nina.sablan@yahoo.com

WITH a color palette of pastel blues, pinks and purples, the façade of the "It's a Small World" attraction makes it a nice background for picture-taking.

After-school special look

Dress up your school get-up with accessories. Liven up your face with a little color

Text by Bianca Caccioppoli
20 Correspondent
Photos by Cyrus Pangandian

I WANT TO GO OUT with my friends after school. How can I liven up my look for going out without having to go home to change my clothes and make-up?

Most of us want to be able to move around without bringing too many things to school (i.e., a paper bag with a full change of clothes), the key to changing your look from schoolgirl to sophomore out is to bring accessories and a couple of extra make-up items. After all, you're not aiming for a drastic change, just an update for the evening.

Dress up the clothes that you wore to school (such as jeans, tank tops and graphic tees) with an accessory or two. Try statement, long earrings, bangles and chunky necklaces, which will instantly add a splash of color to your outfit. If you want to make your outfit look more formal, trade your flip-flops or sneakers for a pair of heels (that you can study in your locker. Most drastic clothing changes should be done at home, so if you really need to look more dressed up, it's best to bring it to your house first.

Another way to look chicsier after class is a change of makeup. According to makeup artist Dino Go, "a blast of color, a swipe of blush, and a bit of gloss can do wonders to liven up your face. For after-school outings, you should aim to look more dressed up but not drastically different from what you looked just a few hours earlier."

Start by lining your eyes with a colored pencil. Try dark green, blue or purple's if you don't have time to apply eye shadow. Curl your lashes and apply mascara, then swipe blush on the apples of your cheeks. A shimmery shade of peach or pink works best for evenings. After that, use powder to blot out oil from your face, and finish off with a swipe of lipgloss.

E-mail the author at bianca.caccioppoli@yahoo.com

LEE accessories such as earrings and scarves to add color to your school clothes.

A PAIR of heels can do wonders to dress up your otherwise casual outfit.

LEE Philosophy's Supernatural Tinted Moisturizer is full of humidizers for a more vibrant, natural look.

SHU UEMURA D-Glow gives you an clear and adjusts to your lip color—great for school and casual nights out.

BLOOM'S Holy Smoke collection has colors that can go from day to night. We like its red shadow in Idols, a gunmetal grey shade with flecks of purple.

WEEKEND ACER FESTIVAL@GILMORE

Every weekend of June visit the Gilmore I.T. Center at New Manila Quezon City and get great deals on Acer Aspire Desktops, Acer Aspire Notebooks and Acer LCD monitors from participating Acer resellers and get the chance to win a Nintendo DS Lite, a Sony PSP Slim and a Trip for 2 to Hong Kong or a sumptuous meal at the Little Store, also located at the Gilmore I.T. center absolutely free.

The promo started June 6-8, drop by the Gilmore area on the following weekends: June 13-15, 20-22 and 27-29, for great prizes and cool freebies like free Nike Park gift certificates worth 1000php, 8diax movie tickets and Nokia phones.

Careful, he's armed

Meet 24-year-old world shooter Stephen Hinojales

By Pam Pastor

THERE ARE A BIG PART OF 24-year old Stephen Hinojales' life. As one of the country's top practical shooters, Stephen is currently busy preparing for the World Shoot in Utah in October.

He spends time at the range on weekdays to practice and competes in different parts of the Philippines during the weekends.

"It's tiring, but it's such an adrenaline rush," he says.

His sport may keep him busy, but he made sure he had enough time to enjoy this summer, too.

What is your fitness regimen?

I try to work out twice a week and eat healthy goodies.

What's your personal style, what clothes do you usually wear?

Cargo shorts, T-shirts and comfy shoes

What do you like seeing on girls in the summer?

The less the better! Haha!

What scents do you like for yourself?

Davidoff Cool Water Deep

What's your favorite thing to do during the summer?

Going to the beach with the one I love and relaxing under the sun.

Favorite summer destination?

Manila, Negros Oriental

What are your summer must-haves?

Summer fling, shades and sunblock

Any unforgettable summer stories?

My best friend and I decided to go to Boracay. Before we left, she became my girlfriend. Sweet memories.

STEPHEN Hinojales in action

WITH President Macapagal-Arroyo and other shooters

CARDIGAN

RUFFLE tank

STRIPED tank

CROCHET top

ROLL-UP shirt

Easy must-haves

BACKPACK

TOTE

GAP BRINGS EFFORTLESS, comfortable fashion that lets you express your individual everyday style.

Everything is pared down to what you wear most—shorts and T-shirts, shirts and dresses. Rich tones of purple, green and khaki with pops of bright color bring a new level of sophistication to these must-have pieces.

For women, soft woven shirts and tanks pair with belted shorts. Layer on a scarf or cardigan to complete the look.

Men can pair casual cargo shorts with plaid shirts, or even play with patterns by trying a striped polo with a pair of madras shorts. Hot and women, in fact, can add a touch of freshness to their wardrobe with a pair of madras shorts or a woven shirt.

FLORAL scarf

SCARF (green color)

Gap is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Casual Clothing Specialists, Inc. (CCSI), member of the Ramos Group of Companies, and is available at Glorietta 4, Trinoma, Mall of Asia, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and opening soon at Bonifacio High Street this June.

SHORTS

STRIPED polo

PLAID shirt

HALTER tank

CARGO shorts

DENIM shorts

BELTED shorts

PLAID shorts

PLAID shorts

SOLID shorts

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Bernie G. Velarde

Discover how life insurance and investments through mutual funds can help secure your financial future.

Contact your Sun Life Financial Agent or call 845-5858

DREAMERS, all (from left): Jon Singh, Cris Pearce and Miguel Mendoza make the final cut as Bayo's second season scholars.

Not just singing

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Joseph Aguinaldo

Talent isn't the only factor in choosing this year's 16 Dreamers

LAST WEEKEND, THE 16 scholars of the ABS-CBN reality talent search "Pinoy Dream Academy" were introduced to the public.

"Rise to the show's reality format, there was a lot of drama—finalists shed copious tears and vice Monica, Dindi Joey Reyes, reportedly got ejected.

Only 15 names were announced on Saturday because one of the finalists, Gemarie Dicito (daughter of director Ike Seneng Dicito), backed out.

As such, four finalists were "Most Liked": Mitzi Bedolidolo, Jon Singh, Ray DeMesa and Lara Bell Reyes. Viewers were asked to choose one of them to join the 15 others in Bayo's house/academy.

Reyes, according to Headmaster Ryan Cayabyab, was livid after Singh failed to make it to the Top 16.

Cayabyab told Inquirer Entertainment that he and the other Masters (including voice teacher Kitchy Molina) had voted for three of the four "Most Liked" contenders to join the Top 16.

"The decision for TV content is not our purview, it's a pity," Cayabyab explained via SMS to...

NEXT 16

Fil-Am wins Tony for Best Score

NEW YORK—"IN THE HEIGHTS," a celebration of Latino life in the upper reaches of Manhattan, was named Best Musical in the 2008 Tony Awards. Singer-Diego Cases... ng" Tracy Lets' tale of a dysfunctional Oklahoma family, took Best Play.

But "South Pacific" picked up seven prizes—including Musical Revival, Actor/Musical for leading man Paulo Szot, Director/Musical and Best design awards: Sets, Costumes, Lighting, Sound. (The show

FILM 13

Robinson's Manila Tel. Nos. (02) 3043571 / 3465364 • SM Megamall Tel. Nos. (02) 6352572

SLIMMING WATER
Hydroxydase Mineral Water
* HELP LOSE WEIGHT (up to 1 kilo a week)
PREVENTS HEARTS DISEASE *EQUALIZE ALCOHOL
*MAGNESIUM RICH/ANTI STRESS
MIRACLE DRINK FROM FRANCE
IMPORTER: ATLANTIC ARCHERS ACHIEVERS CORP.
FOR DELIVERY

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER
SESSIONISTAS
2008

IKAW BA ANG SUSUNOD NA SISIKAT?

Halakin na ang college band na sa Greenhills Sessionistas! Get to jam with famous local artists and win cash, gift certificates and a 4-night paid gig at Tiendesitas!

Call 726-4472 • www.greenhills.com.ph

SM CINEMA movietime

visit www.smcinema.com • powered by yahoo.com

Tom (Patrick Dempsey) had a good life. He's easy, he's successful, and he knows it. He can always rely on Hannah (Michelle Monaghan), his delightful best friend and his one constant in his life.

But just as he's getting ready to ask her to marry him – he learns that she has become engaged to a handsome and wealthy Scotsman and plans to move overseas. When Hannah asks Tom to be her "maid" of honor, he reluctantly agrees to fill the role . . . but only as an attempt to woo Hannah and stop the wedding before it's too late.

NOW SHOWING

METRO MANILA

IMAX

KUNG FU PANDA
Admission Price: P300

SPEED RACER
Admission Price: P300

DEEP SEA 3D
Admission Price: P350

THE INCREDIBLE HULK
RESERVED
RESERVED

THE PODIUM

KUNG FU PANDA

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

CINEMA 1

NARNIA
Admission Price: P100

SOON TO OPEN

LUZON

SOON TO OPEN

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 GET SMART	6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 UROJUA	7 KUNG FU PANDA
3 MADE OF HONOR	8 indieSine: WUGOT
4 ALTERED	9 THE HAPPENING
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	10 GET SMART

ATTENTION:
High School and College Students
CHALLENGE YOUR CREATIVITY
IN FILM MAKING

ERMITA

1 MADE OF HONOR

2 GET SMART	6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
3 UROJUA	7 KUNG FU PANDA
4 ALTERED	8 THE HAPPENING
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	9 CARE GIVER / SEX AND THE CITY

METRO EAST

1 UROJUA	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 GET SMART	6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
3 MADE OF HONOR	7 KUNG FU PANDA
4 ALTERED	8 THE HAPPENING

NOVALICHES

1 UROJUA	3 MADE OF HONOR
2 GET SMART	4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

PIONEER

1 UROJUA	3 MADE OF HONOR
2 GET SMART	4 ALTERED / INCREDIBLE HULK

Showing exclusively at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD indieSine

MTRCB Rating: R-13 June 18 to 24

STA. ROSA

1 UROJUA	
2 GET SMART	
3 MADE OF HONOR	
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	

LIPA

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
2 UROJUA	
3 CARE GIVER	
4 KUNG FU PANDA / NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN	

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
2 UROJUA	
3 MADE OF HONOR	
4 GET SMART	

IMUS

1 UROJUA	
2 GET SMART	
3 MADE OF HONOR	
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	

ANGELES

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 MADE OF HONOR
2 UROJUA	4 GET SMART

STARMILLS

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	4 CARE GIVER
2 UROJUA	5 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR	6 KUNG FU PANDA / NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

BACOLOD

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
2 UROJUA	
3 MADE OF HONOR	
4 GET SMART	
5 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN	
6 KUNG FU PANDA	

ILOILO

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
2 UROJUA	
3 MADE OF HONOR	
4 SEX AND THE CITY	
5 GET SMART	
6 KUNG FU PANDA / NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN	

Two gay hosts: Ex deal or no ex deal?

GAY HOST THOUGHT SECRET GOOD AFTER wedding Maddy Hart, who turned out to be a closet man!

Antonio chat

Plus, HH only indulged GH's sexual advances in exchange for the latter's help in improving his image in the media.

Quid pro quo. Ex deal or no ex deal?

Battle of the exes

Observers are wondering why Brad Mad. d broke up with Dramatic Actress.

Well, Bill is often seen hanging out with Jess buddy, Flashy Actor. Before anyone dreams up a Pitchfork scenario ... Bill is actually the lover of his Gay Manager.

So why did JM split with Bill?

Now, there are rumors that Bill is a card carrying resident of the isle of Lesbos.

Romance rekindled

LOS ANGELES—The on-again, off-again love affair between Marley Cruz director Tammy Lee and his ex-wife, actress Pamela Anderson, is back on again, according to Lee. "Pamela and the kids have moved in with me," Lee told Rolling Stone in a story published on the magazine's website on Thursday. "It's awesome, man. It's definitely working. We can tell on the kids' faces ... they're happy when we're together." Reuters

Jackson in Vegas

LOS ANGELES—Michael Jackson may relocate his career as a Las Vegas act, thanks to the private equity group that recently bought the late-on his Neverland Ranch in California to help the pop star avert foreclosure. This is reviewed from Colony Capital is discussing with Jackson various repayment options for the $23 million debt, including a possible long-term engagement as the resident performer of a Vegas casino or nightclub, a source said on Friday. Reuters

Junjunmel Cruz

Professor Sparey

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey, 48, has accepted a year-long position as a theatre professor at Oxford University, the institution said in a posting on its website on Friday. ...

Tag of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's goddess on TV. Used why some are stressed, if we are stressed.)

Hubby not included

•Oxtabletop Cruz, on the libel charges she filed against Cesar Montesano sister, Maria Montesano "Chel" Castro.

"Gusto kong i-klir na wala itong kinalaman sa hubby ko. Kaibigang pamilyadong ayaw dawi akong mga asawa ang kinasangkutan niya.

•Hataltalin't message to Cesar.

"Alam mo dapat ang kinasangkutan mo hindi asawa ko at hindi tulay ng mga anak ko sa pinagdaanan at mga pangkawawa mo."

•Check on Bandillo's claim of a long-standing grudge that sparked alleged hate messages from her sister-in-law on the Internet:

"Marami nyong sabihin na sana yesan na ha ng mga aswap.... magit ito sa akin. That's a big lie."

•Dud on the Internet messages against Bandillo:

"Hang di namen nmw kut ilabi ata mga mamwat? Ang may kasalanan nun si ang eh sa mat ang, di ko na problema yun. Problema niya yun."

(Hk, tol. Litty-dity laundry lies Hollywood for more, Page G2.)

Sacrifices and jokes

•Carol Schuppert, on her wedding to musician Raul Sibuz:

"Yun ang promise ko sa kanya na kung dati ang ‘kong time na iniintungin niya ako for marriage, then I'll give up everything."

•Raul on Carol's sacrifice:

"I didn't want her to give up her career. Kasi ito lang ang pinoy eh. Sayang..."

(Haha, kaloo naman yang asawain n'yo pa ‘yan ha?)

Still about Dabap

•Lorna Tolentino, on living without husband Rudy Fernandez:

"Parang kapitan bata. Isa-isang day at a time ... Minsan-an papagawahan mo yung pendeng mangyari. Pagdating sa ganyan, Lalo ma-na-long pag siguro kung ano-ang dapat gawin," (The words mean to go first, actually.)

•Annabelle Rama, on fulfilling one of Rudy's last wishes:

Akong-ebong day! Sabong Anni noon pa niyan ako kinakausap, kaya siya nervous. Pagdating sa sabungan, Lalo ma-na-long pag siguro kung ano-ang dapat gawin," Ito ang mga sinasabi niya sa akin. Hehehe.

•Vilma Santos-Recto, on fulfilling one of Rudy's last wishes:

Along-ebong day! Sabong Anni noon pa niyan ako kinakausap, kaya siya nervous. Pagdating sa sabungan, Lalo ma-na-long pag siguro kung ano-ang dapat gawin," Ito ang mga sinasabi niya sa akin. Hehehe.

•Annabelle Rama, on fulfilling one of Rudy's last wishes:

Along-ebong day! Sabong Anni noon pa niyan ako kinakausap, kaya siya nervous. Pagdating sa sabungan, Lalo ma-na-long pag siguro kung ano-ang dapat gawin," Ito ang mga sinasabi niya sa akin. Hehehe.

•Vilma Santos-Recto, on fulfilling one of Rudy's last wishes:

Along-ebong day! Sabong Anni noon pa niyan ako kinakausap, kaya siya nervous. Pagdating sa sabungan, Lalo ma-na-long pag siguro kung ano-ang dapat gawin," Ito ang mga sinasabi niya sa akin. Hehehe.

RUSHES

Binuli ko na ang mahal niya si Aubrey; si Lalit at si Lani Anya wala na akong problema. Hindi ko rin kay Bulla na hindi niya si Lani Ilan buti na lang.

•Hilarious answer: Carmen Soo, on reports she was the cause of Aurelio Morales and Irma Evangelista's breakup:

"It's really weird because I didn't know all of this was happening until about three weeks ago. Because it was going on but during the about nobody actually said anything about it on the set, apparently, all of this was happening and suddenly I was the center of a breakup! So I was puzzled and I was just starting to get to know Jennifer from acting, you know, from spending time, working on scripts together. So I was puzzled and I felt victimized." (Awwww!)

(Jayrald, The Buzz, Showbiz Central)
E-mail us: rushes@inquirer.com.ph

LORNA Tolentino

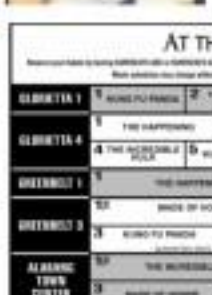
SHANG CINEPLEX

1 French Film Festival
2 Incredible Hulk
3 Kung Fu Panda
4 Made of Honor
Nanna

Holy Mass Celebration at the Shang!
Saturdays at 5 pm
Sundays at 11 am & 4 pm

13th French Film Festival in Manila
June 12-22, 2008
Cinema 1, Shang Cineplex

JUNE 12 (THURSDAY)
Changement d'adresse 12:30pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 12:30pm
Un avare que ça 2:00pm
Il y aura a Rish Mas 3:00pm
Jeanne 4:30 pm
Love is in the Air 6:30 pm
Rose Bowing 7:00 pm
Comme un Homme 9:00pm
JUNE 13 (FRIDAY)
Hitori 12:30pm
Changement d'adresse 12:30pm
Un avare que ça 2:00pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 3:00pm
Love is in the Air 4:30pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 6:30pm
Changement d'adresse 6:30pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 14 (SATURDAY)
Il y aura a Rish Mas 12:30pm
Hitori 2:00pm
Love is in the Air 3:30pm
Un avare que ça 5:00pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 6:30pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 15 (SUNDAY)
Il y aura a Rish Mas 12:30pm
Un avare que ça 2:00pm
Hitori 3:30pm
Love is in the Air 5:00pm
Changement d'adresse 6:30pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 16 (MONDAY)
Un avare que ça 12:30pm
Love is in the Air 2:00pm
Changement d'adresse 3:30pm
Il y aura a Rish Mas 5:00pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 17 (TUESDAY)
Hitori 12:30pm
Changement d'adresse 2:00pm
Roman de Gare 3:30pm
Un avare que ça 5:00pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 18 (WEDNESDAY)
Un avare que ça 12:30pm
Love is in the Air 2:00pm
Changement d'adresse 3:30pm
Il y aura a Rish Mas 5:00pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 19 (THURSDAY)
Les Chansons d'Amour 12:30pm
Il y aura a Rish Mas 3:00pm
Jeanne 4:30 pm
Love is in the Air 6:30 pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 6:30pm
Comme un Homme 9:00pm
JUNE 20 (FRIDAY)
Changement d'adresse 12:30pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 12:30pm
Un avare que ça 2:00pm
Love is in the Air 3:30pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 4:30pm
Changement d'adresse 6:30pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 21 (SATURDAY)
Roman de Gare 12:30pm
Love is in the Air 3:30pm
Les Chansons d'Amour 5:00pm
Changement d'adresse 6:30pm
Comme un Homme 8:00pm
JUNE 22 (SUNDAY)
Les Chansons d'Amour 12:30pm
Il y aura a Rish Mas 3:00pm
Hitori 5:30pm
Le Reve 8:00pm
FREE ADMISSION
*Venue and schedule subject to change without prior notice.



AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1
1 Kung Fu Panda 2 The Incredible Hulk 3 Altered 4 Jejeje

GLORIETTA 4
1 The Happening 2 The Incredible Hulk 2A The Incredible Hulk
4 The Incredible Hulk 5 Kung Fu Panda 6 Made of Honor 7 The Happening

GREENBELT 1
1 The Happening 2 The Incredible Hulk

GREENBELT 3
1A Made of Honor 2A The Incredible Hulk
3 Kung Fu Panda 4 The Happening 5 The Incredible Hulk

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1A The Incredible Hulk 2 The Incredible Hulk
3 Made of Honor 4 Kung Fu Panda 5 The Happening

AYALA CENTER CINEMA
1 Made of Honor 2 Kung Fu Panda 3 The Incredible Hulk 4 The Incredible Hulk

MARKET! MARKET!
1 The Incredible Hulk 2 Kung Fu Panda
3 Jejeje 4 Made of Honor 5 Altered

TRINOMA
1 Sakuban 2 The Happening 3 Kung Fu Panda 4 Made of Honor
5 The Incredible Hulk 6 The Incredible Hulk 7A The Incredible Hulk

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Shopping Hall, the story of "Monster Mom" June 20, Activity Center

Greenbelt — Saturday Jazz Nights at Greenbelt 2 June 28 & 21, 7:30pm-9:30pm

Alabang Town Center — Lifestyle Workshop with Rustans, Art of Coffee June 28, 4PM, Corte de las Palmas

Ayala Center Cebu — Movie Date June 13,20

Market! Market! — Peek Over To Market: Simply Sandalwood ng Birthday at Rico! June 19-21, Activity Center

Greenbelt — Greenbelt - The perfect spot for concerts, engagement & corporate events. Is now accepting bookings for May to July 2008. For inquiries & bookings, pls. call 750-7582 or 757-3851

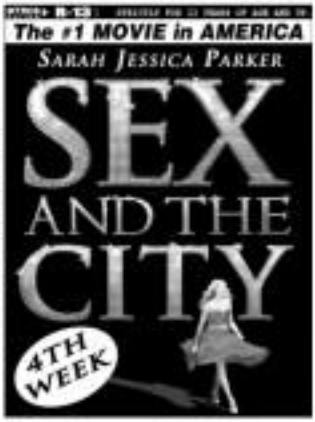
Ayala Museum — Museo: Visions of Heaven on Earth ongoing with its new For more information, please call 757-7117 or 21 local 29 or send museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Tri Noma — Fiesta & Hong Launch! June 21, TriNoma Activity Center
Music Lokal featuring Cinders 6 @ 1:30 P June 20, 4PM, TriNoma Activity Center

The Glorietta Earth Friendly Bag
May 30 to December 31, 2008
For only P100, you can save the earth and save money as you earn discounts from participating outlets.
Visit the concierge for more details.

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Ayala Malls Tri Noma

Reader from San Diego no fan of 'birit' style, either



MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

NOW SHOWING

FEEDBACK

Yer, right

From Polgar-tong.sweng.bits-th@hotmail.com>.

"The artist (Basil Santiago, May 2008 issue) claims he works best in the basement of his house, but he also goes out to find fresh ideas. Dinas, while developing the character of a superstar dancer, he befriended senators who worked in bars to have a better understanding of their work," Ha, right!

From Kimbee (kimbee@gmail.com)

When a film is too graphic, it loses its art. Europa has gone beyond porn. Our filmmakers should start to tell [better] stories. The Philippine audience deserves more intelligent films. Jo Jim (dear "Serbi"?-Ed.)

The 'Pinoy Idol' comment

From Lei Reyne Lanzarote (pro-fessionalbeauties@yahoo.com).

Somebody should tell John Magbanua to... minimize or stop using the word "panis" and "pasang" when she gives comments on "Pinoy Idol." She sounds uncouth... [and] this diminishes her credibility... as a judge. The whole show I commend for consistency. It's consistently no boys.

Wig, Songbird

From Jean Ayala (jdelcinto@yahoo.com) Houston, Texas

Good morning, Ashayari. I feel [not] need to know the feedback in Regine Velasquez's recent Houston concert. On the bright side, she... sings magnificently. The big turnoff was, in the course of the show, she asked for dollar donations for the audience, "Pandili ko ng Louis Vuitton bag." OMG! We were appalled. We hope the concert organizers don't let anything like this happen again.

Cesar's sister airs side on row with Sunshine

DIVIDING: Dunson-Cesar's ads for anything more.

THE SUN ISN'T SMILING YET ON Sunshine Cesar and Cesar Montano. Their domestic feud has turned into a battle front, with Atlanta filing of a libel suit against Bulgey's sister, Maria Mercedes Montilla-Castro a.k.a. Chesl, for allegedly spreading malicious stories about her ex-husband.

Got an e-mail from Chesl, who's based in Italy. Here's her side of the story:

"I had my qualms about Diane before, and I have my reasons for this. I was just being a protective ate ng Cesar. But when they got married, I tried my best to be fair ate ng well.

"I have said a lot of things to her personally, both good and bad. I can't remember specifically if I said those things the reason I said so-n-so's, I will have to check ate ng files.

"Diane and I have our misunderstandings. Let's leave it at that. But for sure, I'm not the cause of their separation issue. That is an old song that the two entire from time to time.

"The she filed case, I'll wait for the summons. Until then, I will go on with my life here in Italy. I don't see any reason for me to be intimidated, arbet all, I am an Italian citizen.

"My life does not rely on other people's perception of me. But for Cesar, that is a different story. I hope Sunshine finds that independence before she did this sort of thing."

As a silent friend of the couple, I hope Diane will do a Sea. The and leave him in ate without fighting. Bulgey should not be made to choose between being mere of a husband to Diane or cursed a brother to Chesly. Knowing Bulgey, his heart is big enough to love threebelli.

KATHRYN HUGS

Cool buddy

Ungoking Dantes is such a cool drinking bud. He consumes alcohol but he doesn't let alcohol consume him. "Everything in moderation," says the new-reviewer of Sonic Monsters Brandy.

The success he enjoys now, however, is far from being moderate. Dang is elated about his nomination for Best Director ("Angels") in the Star Awards. "Being nominated across as a promise that there's something to look forward to," he says. "For once I'd like to focus more on acting. Becoming a renowned actor will help me be a better director."

He is elated to do a movie after "Dreadbel." Doesn't he mind be jeopardizing different shoot his tried and tested team-up with Marian Rivera? "Time will come for that. For now, I can't ask for anything more." So living hoops giving his all.

New girl

Could it be true that John Cuneta is now eyeing Dan Alonzo? A reader who spotted the duo were out on a friendly date. How friendly is friendly?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Dream boy

Kenna Halili is very vocal about her admiration for Dennis Trillo. "He has always been my dream leading man," she says. Meaning, "I wanna have a BF like him." Or does she like Dennis so he has BF? "Kung wala lang nagsasabi." Mmmm... Who would mind if Kit writers out loud, "Dennis is mine!"

Going big

Arnel Ignacio can't stop laughing every time he recalls that crazy episode in his life when he spent all his savings to put up a barbecue stand for an election. "Mga pagod ako ng barbecue habang nagluluto. What I did for love!" Talk about full commitment and financial investment.

Ryan Agoncillo and the players in his game show "Go Bingo" can go laughing all the way to the bank. Ratings commission gave a shocking "4.4 percent now for season 15, million in the show's new segment "Bonus Plus" and bonus chances get bigger prize 2000,000 every Friday in Supreme Bonanza. Nobody will go home bigo in "Gollingo."

Topless girls

What's the real score between Marian Alcaraz and her "Dyesebel" co-star Michelle Madrigal? "We know each other too well because Michelle and I go a long way back," he explains. "I don't know what kind ang tsismisy ang nagpalabas, ha. Other than, bago ito labas ng girls on Dyesebel hindi daw'ye topless (laughs)." Wonder who was his first thought.

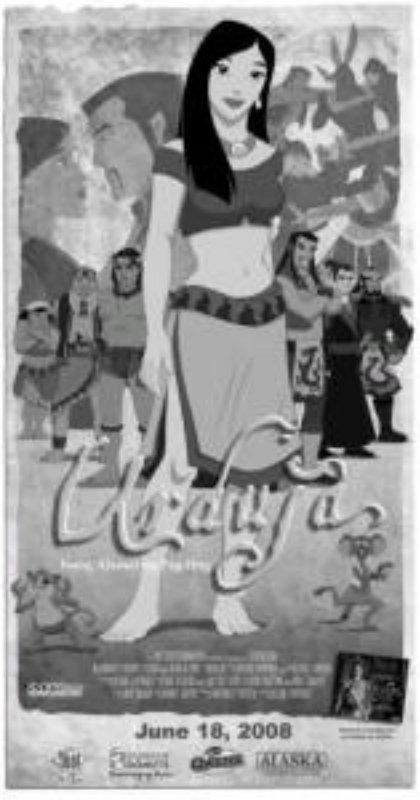
Online spend

Ryan Agoncillo, Bryan Revilla and Nancy Castiglione joined the jam-packed crowd at PLDT My DSL+ net dubbing competition in Greenhills Shopping Center upon picking seats. Amid the ruckus, they kicked off The Ultra Broadband Blowout with top PC brands available at lowest rates. Check out MyDSL.ph (installed in 24 hours) over the counter in DM, Telco shops and more than 300 PC stores for fast and delicious online just like one.

Errorsec: In a previous column, I have mistakenly referred to Rudy Fernandez as a former student of EP He actually studied in UST like cofas.

Personal: Congrats to my best friend Jay ole in Pasadena graduating from the Institute Hospitality Academy. Tagaro ell to you, Chef Jay!

E-mail: sunnyboyfolder@yahoo.com



"I HOPE to raise them out of their comfort zones, so they can learn to be original," says Headmaster Ryan Cayabyab of the "Pinoy Dream Academy" Season 2 semi-finalists.

Not just singing

From page B1

Saturday night. "Viewers need to know that there are other parameters to reality TV."

In short, total presence is not the only criterion. Said Cayabyab, "Although some of our Eighty-recommended choices didn't make it. That's part of the unpredictability factor of reality TV that makes it interesting viewing fare."

He has come to terms with this, he said: "We really are now, I understand that we will be blamed for the final decision. People will get mad at us. That's part of the job."

Medley crew

In an earlier e-mail to the hosters, Cayabyab pointed out: "It would get pretty boring (Tommy) were the only thing I'm'd doing). Pia (Pia) we're really excited that we strike a good balance: To enhance, entertain and bring in the business for the network. If (Ariel) Ureta (Ureta) and his team are good at this anyway, so I will focus on training the scholars."

Speaking of which, the Top 10 are a motley crew in the learning sort: A camera operator (Jim Nichols), standup comic (Bheng Intrinsic), farmer's son (Regen Bagasol), physical therapy student (Nin Pejac), stylist's son (Ron Dio), an interior designer (Cris Patrol), "Philippine Idol" finalist (Abigail Mendoza) and his girlfriend (Bea Mallari), a young married couple (Thelma and Pennie Malbrick), Dubai OFW (Zel Garcia), goddaughter of "I pay a double-or" (Apple Almojuez), a jilted-by-text-with-homosexual-deficiency (Christian Alvear), coolest (Jun Miguel Salvador's nephew (Bubi Ting) and a Subic Bahane discovery (Lauriele Lodato). On finishing, I was revealed that (almost) aspiring soulful Singh is the 16th scholar, garnering $1.7M percent of test votes.

In sum, Cayabyab describes that batch as "really good . . . I can't wait to sell them how vastly they can improve. I hope to scare them out of their comfort zones, so they can learn to be original."

E-mail bgonzalez@hotmail.com

Opening This Week

Get Smart

Stars Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway, Terrence Stamp, Alan Arkin, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

Directed by Peter Segal

Movie version of 1960s spy series features Max Smart (Carell), an earnest agent, fantastical love of communication options. "Despite affection for the show, [movie] has discarded crucial elements," John Anderson of Variety concurs: "Not quite faithful to the show, but not quite bringing it into the 21st century." Jubilee Time of Cinemablend.com asserts: The movie "took three steps in the right direction when it hired Carell."

Made of Honor

Stars Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan, Sydney Pollack, Busta Gregory

Directed by Paul Weitzel

Patrick (Monaghan) asks her male best buddy (Dempsey) to be his maid of honor. He, however, is secretly in love with best Kyle Smith of New York Post thinks this romantic comedy "mixes together possible . . . jokes . . . and cogent dipped out of horror scripts." Debbie Gasbow of 35 Online thinks the lead stars are "no cure to watch . . . sharing genuine connection." Matthew Turner of View London agrees: It's "enlivened by strong performances."

Altered

Stars Brad Wilkes Hendo, James Garrison, Adam Kaufman, Catherine Morgan, Mary Rose

Directed by Edwardo Sanchez

Alien abduction drama: one of their captors, to avenge their friend and avert the score, Uncle Creepy of Broad Central rolls to "old-school spooky blast." Felix Vasquez Jr. of Cinema Crazed raves: "Special effects mixed with wicked gore and a compelling story make it a great bill-

Fil-Am wins . . .

From page B1

wers since "Irene" in 1956.)

Heather Alves, who oversees "Touch Pacific," Oakland composer Richard Rodgers, lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II, its original director Joshua Logan and James Michener, who wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Tales of the South Pacific," on which the show was based.

"Gypsy" the main competition for "Touch Pacific," took three of the four musical performance awards.

Heidi LaPosa won the Actress Musical prize for her powerhouse performance as Rose, on its dramatic stage mother.

Her co-star, Lloyd Gaines, collected his fourth Tony for his portrayal of Rose's gentlemanly candy-salesman suitor, Herbie. Laura Benanti, who plays the ugly-duckling who blossoms into Gypsy Rose Lee in the show, won as Best Actress Actress. All

told, "August" won five Tonys.

Norman Dorrington, who portrayed the seductress mastermind, took the Actress prize; Bondi Reed, as her flighty sister, won in the featured category. Actor D. Hughes, who directed the production, also triumphed.

"Hooting-Boating," a 1960s sex farce, was named Best Revival Play. It also won the top acting prize for its actor, Mark Sylanos.

Fil-Am winner

Fil-Am Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the music and lyrics for "In the Heights," rapped his way through his acceptance speech for Best Score: "I know I wrote a little show about home. Mr. Sondheim, look, I made a bar (referring to a lyric in Sondheim's Tonight in the Park with George"). But there never was a bar—it's a Latin bar, at least!"

"In the Heights" managed two other musical prizes—for choreography of Andy Blankenbuehler and for orchestrations. Airey, star and co-creator of "Dancing Stringz" took the prize for Best Book of a Musical.

The CBS telecast from Radio City Music Hall opened with an elaborate number from "The Lion King,"

Siffiki Baggins in a scene from "The Little Mermaid."

now in its second decade on Broadway, and finished with host Whoopi Goldberg walking out dressed as the crab from "The Little Mermaid."

AP

KERRY Butler and Cheyenne Jackson in excerpts from "Xanadu."